

Israel, Hamas accept Egyptian cease-fire

MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israel and the Hamas militant group accepted an Egyptian cease-fire proposal Sunday, clearing the way for the resumption of talks on a long-term truce to end a month of heavy fighting in the Gaza Strip that has taken nearly 2,000 lives.

The announcement marked the second time in less than a week that the bitter enemies had agreed to Egyptian mediation. A similar three-day truce last week collapsed in renewed violence over the weekend.

The truce took effect at midnight (2101 GMT), preceded by heavy rocket fire toward Israel. In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said the cease-fire would allow humanitarian aid into battered Gaza neighborhoods and the reopening of indirect talks on a more lasting and comprehensive deal.

Hamas is seeking an end to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade against Gaza, while Israel wants Hamas to dismantle its formidable arsenal of rockets and other weapons.

Palestinian negotiators accepted the proposal early Sunday after meeting with Egyptian officials throughout the weekend. Israeli officials concurred later. Both delegations are back in Cairo.

Qais Abdelkarim, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said indirect talks with the Israelis would begin Monday "with the hope of reaching a lasting cease-fire." The goal, he added, was to end the blockade, which he called "the reason for the war."



Palestinians search the rubble of al-Qassam mosque, hit by an Israeli airstrike Saturday, in Nusseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.
Associated Press

State Dept.: U.S. 'fully supports' Iraq president

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States said Sunday it "fully supports" Iraq's new president, just hours after embattled Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki accused him of violating the constitution.

The State Department responded after al-Maliki accused Fouad Massoum, who was named president last month, of neglecting to name a prime minister from the country's largest parliamentary faction by Sunday's deadline. He said Massoum has violated the constitution "for the sake of political goals."

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the U.S. rejects any effort to use coercion or manipulation in the process of choosing a new Iraqi leader. She said the U.S. supports the process to select a prime minister "by building a national consensus and governing in an inclusive manner."

Al-Maliki's surprise speech late Sunday plunged the government into a political crisis at a time it is battling advances by Islamic State militants. It was his first speech on Iraqi TV since U.S. forces launched airstrikes and humanitarian airdrops in Iraq last week.

Al-Maliki is seeking a third-term as prime minister, but the latest crisis has prompted even his closest allies to call for his resignation. A parliament session scheduled for Monday to discuss the election and who might lead the next Iraqi government was postponed until Aug. 19.

President Barack Obama last week approved limited airstrikes against Islamic State fighters, whose rapid rise in June plunged Iraq into its worst crisis since the end of 2011, when U.S. troops withdrew from the country at the end of an unpopular eight-year war. Obama said the current military campaign would be a "long-term project" to protect civilians from the deadly and brutal insurgents.

Republican Sen. Lindsey



This Friday, June 13, 2014, file photo shows Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., right, joined by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, as he speaks during a news conference in Chicago.

Associated Press

Graham said Sunday the militants threaten not just Iraqis but also Americans. He said Obama's strikes were insufficient to turn back the militants and were designed "to avoid a bad news story on his watch."

"I think of an American city in flames because of the terrorists' ability to operate in Syria and in Iraq," said Graham, a reliable advocate for using U.S. military force overseas.

The chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, also said the militants pose a threat "in our back-

yard" and were recruiting westerners.

"Inaction is no longer an option," she said in a statement as airstrikes were underway.

The rhetoric tracked closely to that used in the lead-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq. In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, lawmakers from both parties voted to give President George W. Bush the authority to take military action against Iraq in the hopes of combating terrorism.

At the time, many said the United States faced a choice of fighting terrorism on American soil or on foreign soil.

A close White House ally, Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, said Islamic State fighters are a "growing and troublesome" threat. But he added, "We must not send the troops."

"The big question is: What can the United States do to stop it?" Durbin asked.

American airstrikes have included fighter pilots and drones near Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region in northern Iraq, as recently as Sunday. The strikes are aimed at limiting Islamic State fighters' advances and helping Iraqi forces regain control. U.S. and Iraqi aircraft also have dropped humanitarian aid for the

minority Yazidis, thousands of whom have been stranded on a scorching mountaintop since the Islamic militants seized Sinjar, near the Syrian border, last week.

The State Department said Sunday it had relocated a limited number of staff members from the U.S. consulate general in Irbil. Spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the move was made "out of an abundance of caution rather than any one specific threat." Staffing at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad "remains the same," she said.

Talks between Washington and al-Maliki that would have allowed U.S. troops to remain in Iraq collapsed in 2008, and Obama withdrew troops in 2011. Al-Maliki now is under mounting pressure to step aside, including requests from U.S. lawmakers.

"The collapse of Mosul was not a result of lack of equipment or lack of personnel. It was a leadership collapse," said Democratic Sen. Jack Reed. "And so in order to put the situation right, we have to begin at the fundamental core, which is leadership in Baghdad, Iraqi leadership."

Graham spoke to "Fox News Sunday." Durbin appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press." Reed was interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation." □

Kerry tries to ease Asian territorial disputes

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)

— U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry tried Sunday to calm the brewing storm over territorial disputes in Asian waters, appealing to China and its neighbors to settle their differences and ease tensions.

Kerry said at a meeting of the Association of South-east Asian Nations that it was not enough to keep working on a long-delayed code of conduct for the South China Sea, where many nations have competing claims.

"We think the urgency of developments means that it is not enough simply to wait for that solution to arrive," Kerry said. "Obvious dangers arise during waiting time. The claimants need to take steps now to lower the temperature."

Kerry added that the U.S. believes "the obligation to clarify claims in keeping with international law applies to all claimants, not just China."


America's top diplomat also said he had raised with Myanmar officials a series of reforms that needed to be completed. They include

addressing ethnic conflicts and religious intolerance, and establishing guidelines for the role of the country's military and constitutional reforms with an eye toward elections to be held in 2015. He said "next year's election will absolutely be a benchmark moment for the whole world to assess the direction Burma is moving in." Kerry said he had invited several Cabinet ministers and lawmakers to Washington for discussions with administration and congressional officials on how best to make the election credible and com-

plete the transition process with democratic reforms.

He stressed those points later in a 50-minute meeting with opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. Kerry then headed to Australia, where he was joining U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel for talks with government officials.


On the maritime disputes, the Philippines offered an initiative Saturday that incorporated the American concept of a voluntary end to tension-producing activities. □

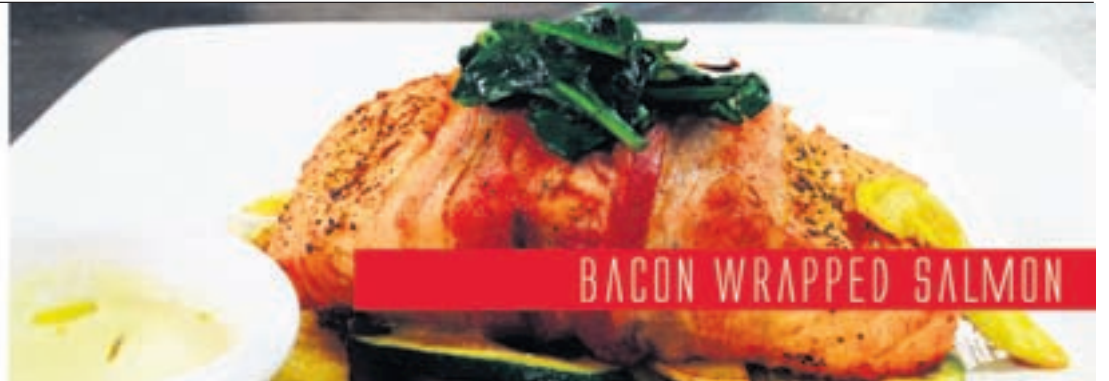


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BACON WRAPPED SALMON

cease-fire

Continued on Page 3

The recent fighting has been the heaviest between Israel and Hamas since Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007. More than 1,900 Palestinians have been killed, including hundreds of civilians. On the Israeli side, 67 people have been killed, including three civilians. Nearly 10,000 people have been wounded and thousands of homes destroyed.

The fighting ended in a three-day cease-fire last Tuesday. Egypt had hoped to use that truce to mediate a long-term deal. But when it expired, militants resumed their rocket fire, sparking Israeli reprisals. The violence continued throughout the weekend, including a burst of fighting late Sunday ahead of the expected cease-fire.

The Israeli military reported some 30 rocket attacks from Gaza on Sunday. Palestinian medical officials said seven people were killed in Israeli airstrikes, including the bodyguard of a Hamas leader, the medical officials said.

Israel had walked away from cease-fire talks over the weekend. "Israel will not negotiate under fire," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier Sunday, warning that his country's military campaign "will take time."

Last week's talks failed in part because Israel rejected Hamas' demand for a complete end to the blockade. Israel says the closure is necessary to prevent arms smuggling, and officials do not want to make any concessions that would allow Hamas to declare victory.

A senior Palestinian ne-

gotiator acknowledged that the Palestinians would make more modest demands this time around. He said they will seek an end to the bloodshed in Gaza and an easing — but not an end — to the blockade. "We might not get everything we want, particularly on freedom of movement. But we believe the Israelis and the world have gotten the point that Gazans should live normally and things should be much better than today," the negotiator said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing internal Palestinian deliberations. Israel says Hamas must disarm. Hamas has said handing over its arsenal, which is believed to include several thousand remaining rockets, is out of the question. The blockade has greatly limited the movement of Palestinians in and out of the impoverished territory of 1.8 million people for jobs and schooling. It has also limited the flow of goods into Gaza and blocked virtually all exports.

An Egyptian crackdown on smuggling tunnels along Gaza's southern border has made things even tougher by robbing Hamas of its key economic pipeline and weapons conduit. Gaza's unemployment rate surpasses 50 percent, and Hamas is unable to pay the salaries of tens of thousands of workers.

An easing of the blockade could mean an increased role for Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose forces were ousted by Hamas seven years ago. Officials said the rival Palestinian factions were already exploring options that would give Abbas, who now governs in the West Bank, a foothold in Gaza, including the likely control of its border crossing with Egypt.

At a minimum, Israel will want guarantees that the rocket fire will stop. A 2012 cease-fire promised an easing of the blockade but was never implemented — in part because of sporadic rocket attacks by various armed factions in Gaza.

Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni said Hamas could get the blockade lifted by accepting longstanding international demands to renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist. "They want to get legitimacy as a terrorist organization without accepting the requirements of the international community," she told a news conference.

In the West Bank, Palestinian health officials said an 11-year-old boy was shot and killed Sunday by Israeli forces in a refugee camp near the city of Hebron.

Witnesses and relatives of the boy said Israeli security forces opened fire at Palestinian stone-throwers. They said the boy was standing on the road in front of his home at the time.

The military said its forces



Firefighters try to extinguish fire after a cleaning materials factory was hit by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

encountered a "violent riot" and opened fire. It acknowledged that the boy was killed in the violence and said it was investigating.

The current Gaza war escalated from the abduction and killing of three

Israeli teens in the West Bank in June. Israel blamed the killings on Hamas and launched a massive arrest campaign, rounding up hundreds of its members in the West Bank. Hamas and other militants unleashed rocket fire from Gaza. □

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Sen. McConnell using Obama's unpopularity



This August 2, 2014, file photo shows Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., joined by his wife Elaine Chao at right, as he waits to speak at the annual Fancy Farm picnic in Fancy Farm, Ky. After 30 years in the Senate, now seeking six more McConnell isn't terribly popular at home. Fortunately for him, President Barack Obama is politically toxic, a fact the Republican leader is banking on to help him to victory in the fall against Democratic challenger Alison Lundergan Grimes.

Associated Press

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent
HARLAN, Kentucky (AP) —
After 30 years in the U.S.

Senate, Republican leader Mitch McConnell isn't terribly popular at home in Kentucky. Fortunately

for him, President Barack Obama borders on politically toxic.

It's a fact McConnell hopes to ride to victory over Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes in November for a new six-year term, and possibly a turn as Majority Leader if Republicans win control of the Senate in the upcoming election. So the 72-year-old lawmaker slyly concedes one point to his 35-year-old rival. "She'll be a new face, all right," he said repeatedly as he campaigned in coal-rich eastern Kentucky, blaming the president's environmental policies for the loss of thousands of mining jobs.

"But a new face for what? A new face who will do what Obama tells her." It's a charge Grimes has

long denied, emphatically and explicitly.

"I am not an empty dress. I am not a rubber stamp. And I am not a cheerleader. I am a strong Kentucky woman," she said on the night she captured the Democratic primary, intent on establishing her independence from Obama and her appeal among women who comprise more than half the electorate.

The two are thrown together in one of the country's most closely watched races, one that Republicans can ill afford to lose if they are to pick up the six seats nationwide they need to gain a majority in the new Senate.

It's also one of the most intense, given McConnell's standing in Washington, his record for triumphing in close races, a split inside his party and his middling approval ratings statewide.

To get this far, he had to fend off challenger Matt Bevin, who was backed by the ultraconservative tea party movement, in a primary in which the candidates and their allies spent more than \$17 million dollars combined.

Next, McConnell's allies tried to seize the initiative. The Kentucky Opportunity Coalition, which backs McConnell, is running a \$5.6 million advertising campaign through Labor Day in the hopes of taking the shine off Grimes' successful campaign for the Democratic nomination.

The candidates have aired ads at lower levels so far, and the Senate Majority political action committee has spent more than \$2 million supporting Grimes. Yet her side has been outspent so far on television

by a nearly 2-1 margin.

In addition to countering the coal charge, she seized on McConnell's statement that it is "not my job," in response to a question asking what he would do to stimulate local economic development in a Kentucky county with 14.3 percent unemployment.

More recently, Grimes' campaign aired one in a series of commercials showing her sitting next to a voter who poses a question to McConnell. An older woman, Ilene Woods of Lynch in Harlan County, asks the senator why he voted "two times against the Violence Against Women Act and against enforcing equal pay for women?"

Then silence, broken only by the sound of wind chimes, before Grimes turns to Woods and says, "I can never get him to answer this one, either."

This time, it was McConnell's turn to dispute the allegation.

He did so in a highly unusual move, airing a television commercial in which his wife, former U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, directly criticized his opponent. "Alison Lundergan Grimes' gender-based attacks are desperate and wrong," Chao says.

Grimes can scarcely hope to prevail if she doesn't win the votes of the state's women.

But McConnell's more recent target was the support of coal miners and their neighbors in eastern Kentucky, a region he split with his Democratic challenger in his most recent race in 2008. That year, Obama got only 41 percent of the vote statewide, a number that dropped to 38 percent in the 2012 presidential election. □

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New York governor, other officials head to Israel



In this Aug. 9, 2014, file photo, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks to the media following a news conference and bill signing that authorizes New York City to lower their speed limit in New York.

DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press
ALBANY, New York (AP) — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and top state legislators are heading to Israel this week for a two-day visit as a "demonstration of solidarity" with that country in the conflict in Gaza, the Democratic governor announced Sunday. Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate co-leaders Dean Skelos and Jeff Klein will travel to Israel on Tuesday. Cuomo said the delegation would meet with Israeli leaders and visit residents affected by the fighting. "Friends stand together in times of crisis, and I am proud to lead this bipartisan delegation to Israel to reaffirm our friendship and support," Cuomo said

in a statement emailed to reporters. "New York has always had a special relationship with Israel. As Hamas and other terrorist organizations continue to threaten Israel, now is the time to deliver that message of solidarity in person," he said. Others accompanying the delegation include Cuomo's brother-in-law, designer Kenneth Cole, and publisher Mort Zuckerman. New York has 1.7 million Jews, the largest concentration outside of Israel, a fact Cuomo noted in announcing the bipartisan trip. "We are grateful for the governor's support and words of encouragement," said Ido Aharoni, Israel's consul general in New York.

Much of the world's attention has focused on the Palestinian death toll in the Gaza war, with more than 1,900 killed, including at least 450 children, Palestinian health officials say. But Israel says its airstrikes aim to stop rocket fire into Israel by Gaza militants and that it targets sites of rocket launchers and militants' command and control, which were tightly interwoven with the population. Israel says it does its utmost to avoid hitting civilians, warning them to leave areas about to be attacked. Silver, who is Jewish, said the importance of the bipartisan trip could not be overstated. Silver and Klein are Democrats; Skelos is a

Republican. "I believe it is essential that the Empire State's leaders express our solidarity with Israel and its people, especially during these difficult times," he said. The visit comes after an Israeli invitation and may help Cuomo quiet questions about his administration's handling of an anti-corruption commission. Cuomo faces accusations that a top aide pressured the commission not to probe groups linked to the governor. Manhattan's federal prosecutor has now taken over the commission's work. Cuomo's office said this will be Cuomo's fourth trip to Israel. □

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Washington teenager arrested in 6-year-old's death



This undated file photo provided by the FBI shows Jenise Wright. Associated Press

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP)

A 17-year-old has been arrested in the death and sexual assault of a 6-year-old girl whose body was found near the Washington state mobile home park she vanished from last weekend, authorities said. The boy was arrested Saturday without incident by deputies and FBI agents at his home in the same

Bremerton-area mobile home park, Kitsap County sheriff's Detective Earl Smith said at a news conference. The Washington state crime lab made positive confirmation of the suspect through forensic evidence. Earlier in the week, the sheriff's office had collected DNA cheek swabs from dozens of nearby residents.

Smith said Saturday that the boy was being interviewed and will be booked with second-degree murder, manslaughter and rape in the girl's death.

The family of Jenise Wright was notified of the arrest about an hour after it took place. A growing memorial at the entrance to the neighborhood includes silver balloons, stuffed animals, lit candles and flowers.

"There's a lot of grief," Sheriff's Office spokesman Scott Wilson told The Seattle Times.

Wilson said he wasn't sure if the suspect and Jenise knew each other. He pointed out that the

community in and around the trailer park was small.

Justin Pearce, a resident of Steele Creek Mobile Home Park, told the Times that he heard the news of an arrest with "sadness, but relief. It doesn't bring her back, but it's still relief."

The FBI's Specialty Search Dogs Unit discovered Jenise's body on Thursday amid thick brush in a nearby wooded area. Volunteer canine search teams had previously reported that their dogs had showed interest in a particular area. Jenise was last seen when she went to bed on the night of Aug. 2. Her parents waited a day before calling for help because they say

the girl had wandered around the Steele Creek Mobile Home Park on her own in the past.

Officials have said that there were no signs of forced entry at Jenise's home and no indication she was taken from her room.

Hundreds of people, including officers from 15 law enforcement agencies, searched for Jenise and went door to door at the mobile home park on the west side of Puget Sound, across from Seattle. They also pulled surveillance video from nearby businesses and checked in with sex offenders in the county. □

24 stranded on U.S. roller coaster



This image provided by Prince George's County Fire Dept. shows firefighters reaching riders stranded on a roller coaster at Six Flags America in Upper Marlboro, Md., Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

UPPER MARLBORO, Maryland (AP) — Authorities say a roller coaster carrying 24 people has become stuck near the top of the ride and fire officials are trying to rescue them at Six Flags America in Maryland. Prince George's County Fire officials were called to

The Joker's Jinx roller coaster just before 2:30 p.m. Sunday. No injuries have been reported.

Assistant Fire Chief Paul Gomez says the riders are sitting upright. He says it will likely take a few hours to get them down.

A Six Flags America spokes-

man said in a statement that it is not yet clear what caused the ride to stop but that it has a computerized safety system that "performed as it is designed to." Six Flags' website says the ride goes 60 mph (96.5 kph) per hour and turns upside down four times. □

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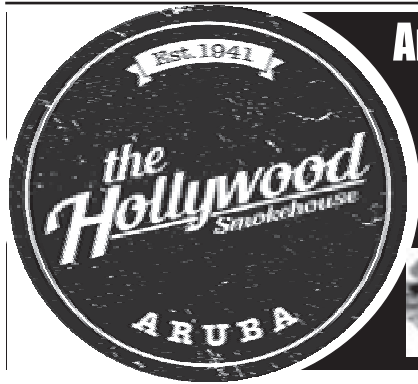
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Killing of unarmed Missouri man draws criticism

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP) —

A black teenager shot multiple times by a suburban St. Louis police officer was unarmed when he died, police said Sunday, as hundreds of local residents protested and a civil rights leader expressed outrage at the killing.

Michael Brown, 18, had graduated from high school and was about to enter a local college, said his mother, Lesley McSpadden. St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said the shooting occurred after an officer encountered two people — one of whom was Brown — on the street near an apartment complex Saturday afternoon in Ferguson, a predominantly black suburb a few miles (kilometers) north of downtown St. Louis.

Belmar said one of the men pushed the officer back into his squad car and a struggle began. Belmar said at least one shot was fired from the officer's gun inside the police car. Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson said authorities were still sorting out what happened inside the police car. It was not clear if Brown was the man who struggled with the officer.

The struggle spilled out into the street, where Brown was shot multiple times. Belmar said the exact number of shots wasn't known, but "it was more than just a couple." He also said all shell casings found at the scene matched the officer's gun. Police are still investigating why the officer shot Brown, who police have confirmed was unarmed.

Jackson said the second person has not been arrested or charged and was expected to be interviewed

later Sunday. Authorities aren't sure if that person was unarmed, Jackson said. McSpadden said she doesn't understand why police didn't subdue her son with a club or Taser instead of shooting him, and she said the officer involved should be fired and prosecuted.

"I would like to see him go to jail with the death penalty," she said Sunday at the site of the shooting, fighting back tears.

The killing drew criticism from some civil rights leaders, and they referred to the 2012 racially charged shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin by a Florida neighborhood watch volunteer who was acquitted of murder charges, as well as the New York City man who died from a police chokehold. "We're outraged because yet again a young African-American man has been killed by law enforcement," said John Gaskin, who serves on both the St. Louis County and national boards of directors for the NAACP, a leading civil rights organization. The Rev. Al Sharpton called the shooting death "very disturbing" and the New York-based civil rights leader said he planned to go to Ferguson to meet with the family Monday night or Tuesday.

A few hundred protesters gathered outside Ferguson Police headquarters about the time the police news conference was to begin. At one point, many of them marched into an adjacent police building, some chanting "Don't shoot me" while holding their hands in the air. Officers stood at the top of a staircase, but didn't use force; the crowd eventually left.

Protesters outside chanted

slogans — "No justice, no peace" and "We want answers" — and some carried signs that read "Stop police terrorism" and "Disarm the police."

Critics have contended that police in the St. Louis area too often target young black men. Statistics on police-involved shootings in the region were not immediately available.

The St. Louis County Police Department is in charge of the investigation.

County Executive Charlie Dooley, who showed up at the protest Sunday to urge calm, said he will request an FBI investigation. U.S. Justice Department spokeswoman Dena Iversen said Sunday that Attorney General Eric Holder



Protestors confront police during an impromptu rally, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014 to protest the shooting of Michael Brown, 18, by police in Ferguson, Mo. Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014.

Associated Press

had instructed attorneys in the department's civil rights division to monitor developments.

The race of the police officer involved in the shooting

has not been disclosed. He has been with the Ferguson Police Department for six years, Belmar said, noting he wasn't aware of other issues involving the officer. □



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NYC doesn't track sightseeing bus accidents

MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Companies that run New York City's growing armada of double-decker sightseeing buses, like the ones involved in last week's Times Square crash, have no legal obligation to report accidents to the city agency that licenses them. The Consumer Affairs Department — one of at least five entities involved in regulating the brightly colored behemoths — disclosed the loophole to The Associated Press as scrutiny of the buses intensified following the crash that injured 14 people Tuesday. Spokeswoman Abby Lootens said city law does not require companies to report accidents to the department. An aide to City Council transportation chairman Ydanis Rodriguez called the news "troubling" and said they would look into

remedying it. This week Rodriguez proposed revoking city-issued licenses from companies whose drivers rack up multiple violations. The lack of mandatory accident reporting is one of several critical gaps in the amalgam of agencies governing the city's booming sightseeing bus industry. The police department, for one, lumps all buses in the same category on accident reports that go to state agencies involved in licensing drivers and inspecting the vehicles. The state Transportation Department analyzes the reports but cannot quantify their accidents because of the broad categorization, spokesman Beau Duffy said. The Transportation Department posts safety reports on its website, but those only convey inspection results. Gray Line, the city's largest sightseeing company, had



- In this Aug. 5, 2014 file photo, woman, her arm bandaged and in a sling, leaves after being treated at the scene of a traffic accident apparently involving two double-decker tour buses in New York's Times Square. Although sightseeing buses are proliferating all over New York City, no single agency is charged with making sure their drivers and equipment are safe.

Associated Press

11 percent of its 80 buses sidelined for mandatory repairs last year, Duffy said. One of its buses was involved in the Times Square crash. Duffy said a rate of 20 to 25 percent would be cause for concern. Other types of buses have different oversight and reporting requirements enabling the government to track their accidents, transportation officials said. Because the city does not require the information, Consumer Affairs does not consider accidents when renewing a sightseeing company's license. The department, set up primarily to police poor business practices, had already moved to revoke New York Apple Tours' license on that basis in 2000 when a company bus killed an actor near Times Square, and its final ruling came only after the state stripped the com-

pany of its bus registrations. These holes in the regulatory system obscure the truest picture of the operational and safety history of the 263 double-decker buses — up from 57 a decade ago — dawdling along the city's most congested avenues. The legal loophole and the police department's imprecise records deprive the public of an important metric and leave companies without official numbers to back up their claims of high safety and few accidents. Harris Schechtman, the director of transit planning for the consulting firm Sam Schwartz Engineering, said the division of oversight responsibilities made sense because they are "independent spheres." "As long as they're being administered properly, the system works," he said. "Would it be nice to have one-stop shopping? Maybe."

A spokesman for Twin America, owner of the companies in the Times Square crash, did not return a message. Franci Swanson, visiting from Connecticut with her daughter, said the crash made them rethink a double-decker tour. "It shook me up," Swanson said. "I'm a little freaked out." Police initially said a driver failed a field sobriety test, but prosecutors said screenings were negative and they were waiting for a full toxicology report to decide on charges. The crash came amid a boom in the sightseeing business. More buses than ever are shuttling tourists and more companies — 15, up from 8 in 2005 — are in on the action, Lootens said. Visitors have hailed them as a convenient way to see landmarks. □

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Storm drenches Japan; 1 dead, dozens hurt



A worker takes a driftwood away from a road flooded by a swollen river in Shingu, western Japan, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.
Associated Press

MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A tropical storm moved out of Japan on Sunday after lashing the country with rain and wind, leaving one person dead and prompting evacuation orders for more than 1 million residents near swollen rivers.

Tropical Storm Halong also disrupted land and air traffic and injured dozens of people as Japan began its annual "Obon" Buddhist holiday week.

Originally a typhoon, Halong was downgraded to a tropical storm as it approached the southwest coast and made two landfalls — over Shikoku Island and Hyogo prefecture in western Japan. It exited over the Sea of Japan from the northern coast near Kyoto on Sunday evening, and was expected to lose further strength over the next 12 hours.

The storm was off the northern coast of Wajima City, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northwest of Tokyo, on Sunday night.

Japan's Meteorological Agency lifted a heavy rain alert for Mie prefecture in central Japan, and evacuation orders for

most residents in the region and other areas were withdrawn. About 200,000 people were still subject to evacuation in some areas, down from about 1.2 million earlier Sunday.

In Iwate prefecture in northern Japan, a 78-year-old man was found dead late Saturday after plunging into a swollen irrigation canal at his farm, local police said. In the western prefecture of Wakayama, a surfer went missing.

Public broadcaster NHK said 78 people were injured in the storm.

Halong brought powerful rain and wind to Tokyo, where an annual fireworks show scheduled for Sunday was called off.

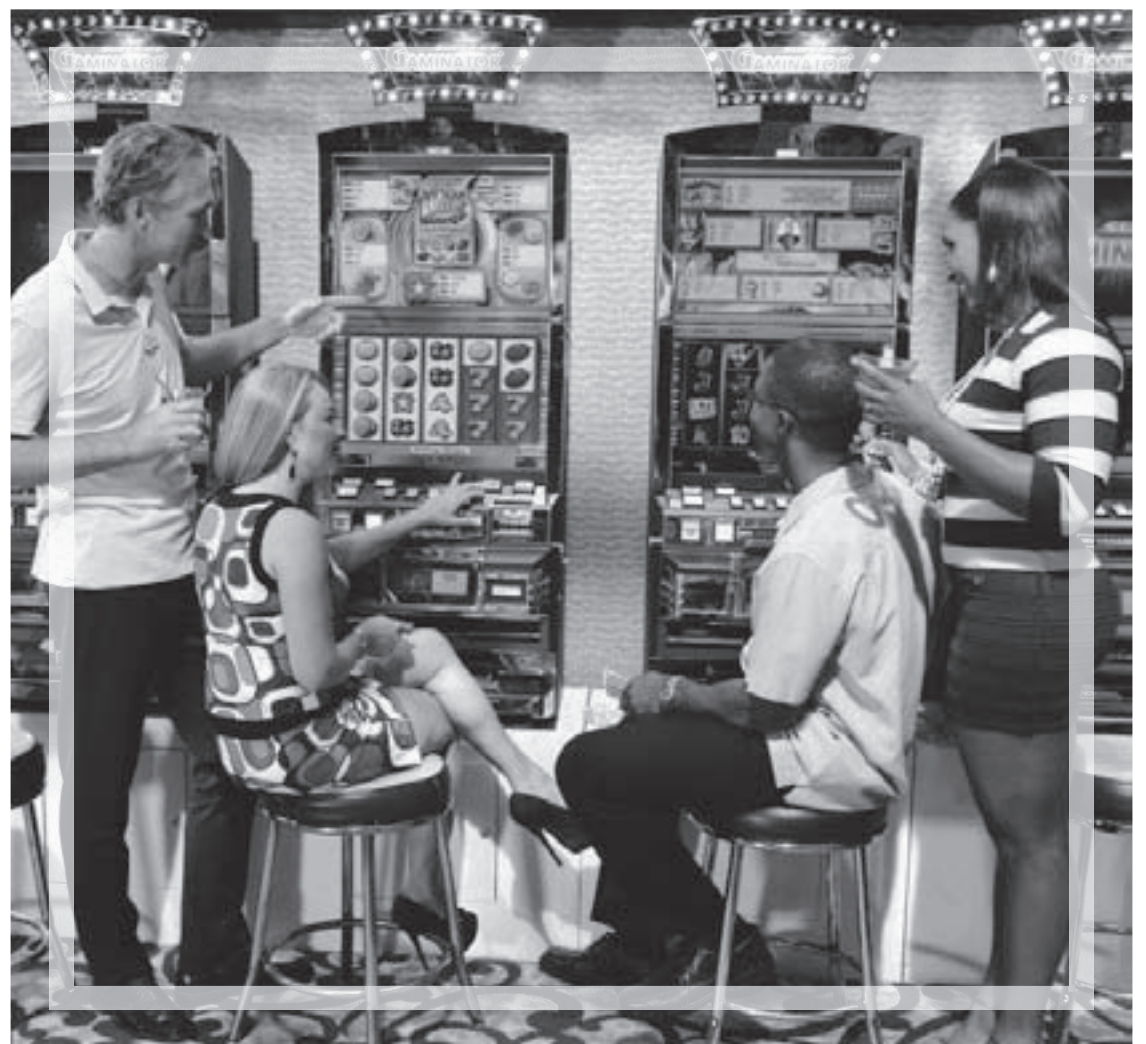
More than 200 flights were canceled, stranding thousands of holidaymakers at airports around the country. The storm also flooded about 330 homes and damaged 70 others in western Japan.

The meteorological agency said the storm, packing winds of up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) per hour, was expected to dump more rain in eastern and northern Japan by Monday morning, and warned of landslides and floods.

Japan was also shaken Sunday afternoon by a magnitude-6.1 earthquake that struck off the north-

eastern coast. There was no danger of a tsunami, and there were no immediate reports of any injuries

or damage. The Nuclear Regulation Authority said nuclear facilities in the area remained intact. □



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Iraqi PM to file complaint against new president

SAMEER N. YACCOUB

VIVIAN SALAMA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's embattled Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, in a surprise speech late Sunday, resisted calls for his resignation and accused the country's new president of violating the constitution, plunging the government into a political crisis at a time it is battling advances by Islamic State militants.

Al-Maliki is seeking a third-term as prime minister, but the latest crisis has prompted even his closest allies to call for his resignation. A parliament session scheduled for Monday to discuss the election and who might lead the next Iraqi government was postponed until Aug. 19.

On Sunday night, in a nationally televised speech, al-Maliki declared he will file a legal complaint against the new president, Fouad Massoum, for committing "a clear constitutional violation."

Al-Maliki, whose Shiite-dominated bloc won the most seats in April elections, accused Massoum of neglecting to name a prime minister from the country's largest parliamentary faction by Sunday's deadline. He said the president has violated the constitution "for the sake of political goals."

Al-Maliki, speaking on Iraqi TV for the first time since U.S. forces launched airstrikes and humanitarian airdrops in Iraq last week, said the security situation will only worsen as a result

of Massoum's actions.

"This attitude represents a coup on the constitution and the political process in a country that is governed by a democratic and federal system," al-Maliki said. "The deliberate violation of the constitution by the president will have grave consequences on the unity, the sovereignty, and the independence of Iraq and the entry of the political process into a dark tunnel. The political infighting could hamper efforts to stem advances by Sunni militants who have seized a large swath of northern and western Iraq in recent weeks.

President Barack Obama warned Americans on Saturday that the new campaign to bring security in Iraq requires military and political changes and "is going to be a long-term project." Obama said Iraqi security forces need to revamp to effectively mount an offensive, which requires a government in Baghdad that the Iraqi military and people have confidence in. Obama said Iraq needs a prime minister — an indication that suggests he's written off the legitimacy of the incumbent, al-Maliki.

Critics say the Shiite leader contributed to the crisis by monopolizing power and pursuing a sectarian agenda that alienated the country's Sunni and Kurdish minorities.

After al-Maliki's speech, Brett McGurk, a deputy assistant secretary of state for Iraq and Iran, expressed support for Massoum.



Iraqis chant pro-government slogans and wave national flags, to show support for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, during a demonstration in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014.

Associated Press

"Fully support President of Iraq Fuad Masum as guarantor of the Constitution and a PM nominee who can build a national consensus," McGurk tweeted. The U.S. airstrikes have reinvigorated Kurdish forces battling the Islamic State militants in northern and western Iraq. Kurdish forces retook two towns from the Sunni militants on Sunday, achieving one of their first victories after weeks of retreating, a senior Kurdish military official said.

Kurdish peshmerga fighters were able to push the militants of the Islamic State group out of the villages of Makhmour and al-Gweir, some 28 miles (45 kilometers) from the Kurdish capital of Irbil, Brig. Gen. Shirko Fatih said.

The United States launched a fourth round of airstrikes Sunday against militant vehicles and mortars firing on Irbil as part of efforts to blunt the militants' advance and protect American personnel in and around the Kurdish capital.

U.S. warplanes and drones have also attacked militants firing on minority Yazidis around Sinjar, which is in the far west of the country

near the Syrian border.

In the Kurdish capital on Sunday, the president of the semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government, Massoud Barzani, said American military support has been effective thus far, but, he added, peshmerga soldiers require more firepower to defeat the militants.

"We are not asking our friends to send their sons to fight on our behalf," Barzani told The Associated Press in a brief interview. "What we are asking our friends is to provide us support and to cooperate with us in providing us with heavy weapons that we are able to fight this terrorist group."

Barzani met Sunday with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who traveled to Baghdad and Irbil pledging France's commitment to providing humanitarian aid. Fabius also met with al-Maliki and called on Iraqi leaders to unite in the face of the escalating crisis. "The marching order is solidarity," Fabius said. He called on Iraqis to form a "government of broad unity so that all Iraqis feel represented and together lead the battle against ter-

rorism."

A week ago, Al-Maliki ordered the Iraqi air force to support Kurdish forces against the militants, in a rare instance of cooperation between Baghdad and the Kurdish regional government, which have for years been locked in disputes over oil and territory. Meanwhile, thousands of Yazidi refugees fleeing the militants continued to pour across the border from Syria into Iraq after a weeklong journey through blazing hot mountains. Followers of an ancient religion with links to Zoroastrianism, the Yazidis said the militants had given them the choice of converting to Islam or dying. As they crossed the border, many Yazidis said they had lost sisters, daughters, young children and elderly parents during the trip. They said militants sprayed gunfire at fleeing crowds, sometimes splitting up families by taking the women and killing the men.

It was not clear how many Yazidis were missing. In the span of 30 minutes, about a dozen displaced Yazidis approached one journalist, pleading for assistance to find their loved ones. □



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Crash of Iranian built plane leaves 39 dead

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A locally built Iranian passenger plane crashed shortly after takeoff in Tehran on Sunday, killing 39 people and reviving questions about the safety of a cash-strapped aviation sector left hobbled by international sanctions.

President Hassan Rouhani offered his condolences to victims' families and quickly ordered an investigation into the crash. Similar planes operated by Iranian carriers will be grounded until the probe is complete, he directed.

The plane was based on a relatively obscure Ukrainian design that has been involved in previous Iranian air disasters.

The Sepahan Air regional airliner, bound for the eastern town of Tabas, went down in a residential area shortly after takeoff at 9:20 a.m. from Tehran's Mehrabad airport.

State TV said the plane's tail struck the cables of an electricity tower before it hit the ground and burst into flames. The official IRNA news agency said the plane suffered an engine failure. Whatever the ultimate cause, quick thinking by the pilot may have saved some lives.

"We should be thankful to God that the pilot did all he could to steer the plane away from residential buildings and fortunately did not crash into them. Otherwise, we would have been dealing with a much worse crisis," said Jalal Maleki, spokesman of Tehran's Fire Department.

Known as an IrAn-140 or Iran-140, the twin-engine turboprop is a version of the Antonov An-140 regional plane and is assem-

bled under license in Iran. It can carry up to 52 passengers.

A Ukrainian-made An-140 crashed near the central Iranian city of Isfahan in 2002, killing 46 mostly Ukrainian and Russian experts traveling to witness the maiden flight of the Iranian-built version of the plane.

A similar Iranian-made version crashed during a training flight in Isfahan in February 2009, killing five onboard, according to a report by state-run Press TV at the time.

Iranian airlines, including those run by the state, are chronically strapped for cash, rely on aging planes and have a spotty maintenance record.

While some operate Boeing and Airbus models, spare parts for Western-made planes are often hard to come by — largely because of sanctions aimed at Iran's nuclear program.

Those difficulties have left Iranian airlines increasingly reliant on planes developed by the Soviet Union and its successor states, though parts for aging Soviet-era planes can also be tough to get.

At the crash site, members of the elite Revolutionary Guard worked to secure the scene from onlookers while security and rescue personnel combed the wreckage. The plane's mangled but largely intact tail section was torn from the fuselage and came to rest on a nearby road.

State TV said the bodies of some of the victims were so badly burned that they could not be identified. They will be handed over to relatives after DNA tests are carried out to determine their identities, it said. Eyewitness Hassan Molla



Iranian Revolutionary Guards inspect the site of a passenger plane crash near the capital Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014. Associated Press

said he heard a roaring sound as the plane came in low overhead, one wing tilting.

"There was no smoke or anything. It was absolutely sound and in good condition" before the crash and what appeared to be multiple explosions, he said.

An official for Sepahan Air told The Associated Press from the central city of Isfahan that the carrier is affiliated with the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company, also known as HESA. The airline was set up in 2010 and has not had any previous crashes, said the official, who refused to provide his name.

HESA has ties to Iran's Ministry of Defense and is the company that assembles the IrAn-140.

Lawmaker Mehرداد Lahouti suggested Sunday that the earlier accident should have been a wake-up call.

"Lawmakers visited the production site of the plane and expressed concern about its (safety)," IRNA quoted him as saying. "This

company should have not been allowed to operate the plane to avoid such a bitter incident." □

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Erdogan wins Turkey's presidential election

**SUZAN FRASER
ELENA BECATOROS**
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan won Turkey's first direct presidential election Sunday, striking a conciliatory tone toward critics who fear he is bent on a power grab as he embarks on another five years at the country's helm.

"I will not be the president of only those who voted for me, I will be the president of 77 million," Erdogan said in a victory speech delivered from the balcony of his Justice and Development Party headquarters in Ankara.

"Today the national will won once again, today democracy won once again," he told thousands of flag-waving, cheering supporters. "Those who didn't vote for me won as much as those who did, those who don't like me won as much as those who do."

The three-term prime minister's message of unity was in stark contrast to his mostly bitter, divisive pre-election campaign, when he poured scorn on his opponents, casted doubt on their Turkish identity and even accused his main challenger of being part of a shadowy coup conspiracy he said was run by a former associate living in the United States.

"I want to build a new future, as of today, with an understanding of a societal reconciliation, by regarding our differences as richness, and by pointing out not our differences but our common values," he said.

Sixty-year-old Erdogan is revered by many as a man of the people who ushered in a period of economic



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan acknowledge supporters after Erdogan's election victory, in Ankara, Turkey, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.

prosperity, but reviled by others as an increasingly autocratic leader trying to impose his religious and conservative views on a country with strong secular traditions.

His critics have accused him of running a heavily lopsided, unfair campaign, using the assets available to him through his office as prime minister to dominate media exposure and travel across the country. His office has rejected these claims.

"Erdogan did not win a victory today, he moved to (the presidential palace of) Cankaya through chicanery, cheating, deception and trickery," said Devlet Bahceli, the leader of the Nationalist Action Party which backed Erdogan's main rival, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

"This person is too questionable and dubious to be seen as president," he said. With 99 percent of ballot boxes counted, Erdogan had 51.95 percent of the vote, according to figures from the state-run Anadolu news agency, which had reporters at ballot counting stations across the country. Ihsanoglu had 38.34 percent and the third candidate, Selahattin Demirtas, had 9.71 percent.

Supreme Election Council head Sadi Guven said Erdogan had won but that no official results would be released until Monday.

"The result was not a surprise. Opinion polls had indicated that he would obtain around 54 to 58 percent of the vote. He had dominated the elec-

tion campaign," said Fadi Hakura, an associate fellow at the Chatham House think tank in London.

"Mr. Erdogan will perceive this result as a decisive mandate to push ahead with his plans for an executive form of presidency," he said. Erdogan has vowed to transform the presidency from a largely ceremonial post into a powerful position — something his detractors say proves he is bent on a power grab. He has said he will activate the post's rarely used dormant powers — a legacy of a 1980 coup — including the ability to call parliament and summon and preside over Cabinet meetings. Hakura said the result would not alter Turkey's course. "Nothing will change much," he said. "Neither

his style of governance, neither domestic policy nor Turkey's external policy."

Legislator Huseyin Celik, the AKP spokesman, said the party — which now must elect a new party leader and designate a prime minister to replace Erdogan — would hold a meeting during the night and another one on Monday. Erdogan is widely expected to appoint a compliant prime minister so he can continue to exert control.

Party rules barred Erdogan from serving another term as prime minister. Turkish presidents used to be elected by parliament but Erdogan's government pushed through a constitutional amendment in 2007, changing the procedure to a popular vote. □

Associated Press



At Bugaloe:

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PALM BEACH - Fresher than Fresh, is what you are served in the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located at De Palm Pier, between the RIU Palace Hotel and The Raddison Hotel. Mondays will no longer be just another Monday. No! It's Crazy Fish Monday at Bugaloe! Beautiful colorful platter of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables is what you will be served from Chef Hernandez' kitchen every Monday. Whether choosing Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to en-



joy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't

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Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa celebrates introduction of Espa products at acclaimed Larimar Spa

The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa recently hosted a spa party at its acclaimed Larimar Spa to celebrate the spa's partnership with the ESPA brand of luxury organic spa products. Invited guests were pampered while they received a preview of the

spa's impressive new menu of products and treatments.

In partnership with the AAA Four Diamond resort, ESPA has created a new spa menu, officially launching June 20, complete with signature treatments that evoke the true meaning of



Natural luxury spa products & treatments now available to spa visitors

Body Wrap, Fitness Muscle Massage, and an Aromatherapy Massage complete with personal consultation where guests will choose from Detoxifier, De-Stresser, Muscle Relaxer, Jet-Lag Reviver, Immune Booster, Energiser, or Body Toner.

"We are excited to begin working with ESPA at Radisson Aruba's Larimar Spa," said Albert Cruz, spa director at Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. "ESPA's values and high standards fall in line perfectly with the resort's core tenants of Rest & Relaxation, Nutrition & Diet, Rejuvenation, and Exercise & Fitness. We have completed the thorough training and are able to heighten our guests' experience, which is our overall goal at the resort."

As ESPA therapists, the resort's team was hand selected and trained to ensure their skills and knowledge base are second to none. This training elevates the treatment experience at Radisson Aruba's Larimar Spa to new heights due to ESPA's technically advanced, holistic and personalized approach.

As global leaders in spa services, ESPA products are found in esteemed spas across five continents. ESPA trained therapists are dedicated to producing results-driven, natural skincare, ensuring skin looks its best at every stage of life. ESPA's award-winning products are as unique as they are effective. They are tested each and every day by a highly trained and extremely professional global network of therapists.

Photos show the launch party for ESPA's exclusive line of products and treatments, now available at Larimar Spa. □

the Caribbean while generating outstanding results of the mind and body and can be enjoyed as a couple, or individually.

Party guests were introduced to highlights of the new menu, including two new signature treatments, Atlantic Escape with Volcanic Stones and Relax and Reflect.

The Atlantic Escape with Volcanic Stones begins with a dry body brushing exfoliation process, followed by an indulgent massage with volcanic stones, and ends with a comforting scalp massage, using ESPA's famous Pink Hair and Scalp Mud.

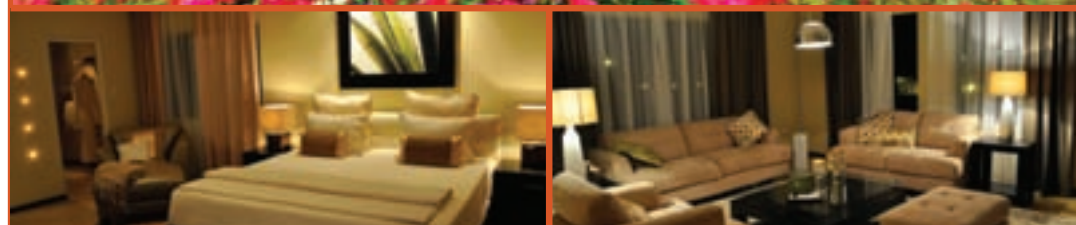
Relax and Reflect begins with a gentle skin cleanse with the Relaxing Salt Scrub followed by a one-hour personalized body massage using an aromatherapy oil blend of sweet orange, palmarosa and rose geranium. A therapeutic scalp massage completes the experience.

Both signature experiences are 110 minutes, beginning with a refreshing foot ritual and ending with a cleansing coconut water drink.

The new ESPA menu also includes three facials with a supplemental Lift & Firm Eye Treatment, and body treatments and massages including the Sun Down



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Jeff Abbott

Jeff Abbott has returned to Aruba to perform at The Sopranos Piano Bar at Arawak Gardens, J.E. Irausquin 368, where he'll be performing through the end of August.

Jeff is a high energy, pop/rock entertainer who has been performing for several years at many of the USA, Europe and the Caribbean's premier piano bars. His aggressive performance style and dynamic personality make him a crowd favorite wherever he performs. His command of the keyboard and unique use of the keytar has earned him a unique niche on the international piano bar circuit.

Ernie Rideout, Senior Editor of Keyboard magazine writes, "Once you get past your astonishment at how great a keyboardist Jeff is, once you get past how he sounds like a really, really good guitarist, and once you put your amazement at his incredible vocal prowess behind you, then you can relax and wonder at how so much fantastic music can come from just one person." And Pat Reid of RHYTHM Magazine adds, "Jeff's vocal is a cross between Luther Vandross and a male Anita Baker."

He performs nightly, except Saturdays, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. □



Jeff Abbott performing at The Sopranos Piano Bar Aruba

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In this Friday, Aug. 8, 2014 photograph, Tony Stewart stands in the garage area after a practice session for Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Watkins Glen International, in Watkins Glen N.Y.

As probe begins, Stewart steps away from the track

**JOHN WAWROW
DAN GELSTON**
AP Sports Writers
CANANDAIGUA, New York

(AP) — The collision was as common as any in racing. Kevin Ward Jr.'s car spun twice like a top, wheels hugging the wall, before it plopped backward on the dimly lit dirt track.

In a sport steeped with bravado, what happened next was another familiar, but treacherous, move: Wearing a black firesuit and black helmet, the 20-year-old Ward unbuckled himself, climbed out of the winged car into the night and defiantly walked onto the track at Canandaigua Motorsports Park.

He gestured, making his disgust evident with the driver who triggered the wreck with a bump: three-time NASCAR champion Tony Stewart.

Ward, a relative unknown compared to NASCAR's noted swashbuckler, was nearly hit by another passing car as he pointed with his right arm in Stewart's direction.

Continued on Page 18

TOP OF THE WORLD



McIlroy wins PGA, second straight major

Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, celebrates after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Valhalla Golf Club on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, in Louisville, Ky.

Stewart

Continued from Page 17

As he confronted Stewart in his passing car, disaster struck.

Ward was standing to the right of Stewart's familiar No. 14 car, which seemed to fishtail from the rear and hit him. According to video and witness accounts, Ward's body was sucked underneath the car and hurtled through the air before landing on his back as fans looked on in horror.

Ward was killed. Stewart, considered one of the most proficient drivers in racing, dropped out of Sunday's NASCAR race at Watkins Glen, hours after Saturday's crash. And the sport was left reeling from a tragedy that could have ripple effects from the biggest stock car series down to weeknight dirt track racing.

"There aren't words to describe the sadness I feel about the accident that took the life of Kevin Ward



Greg Zipadelli, competition director of Stewart-Haas Racing, addresses members of the media before a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Watkins Glen International, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, in Watkins Glen N.Y.

Associated Press

Jr.," Stewart said in a statement.

Authorities questioned the 43-year-old Stewart once on Saturday night and went to Watkins Glen to talk to him again Sunday. They described him as "visibly shaken" after the crash and said he was cooperative.

On Sunday, Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero said that investigators also

don't have any evidence at this point in the investigation to support criminal intent. But he also said that criminal charges have not been ruled out.

The crash raised several questions: Will Ward's death cause drivers to think twice about on-track confrontations? Did Stewart try and send his own message by buzzing Ward, the young driver, only to have

his risky move turn fatal? Or did Ward simply take his life into his own hands by stepping into traffic in a black firesuit on a dark track? The only one who may have that answer is Stewart.

David S. Weinstein, a former state and federal prosecutor in Miami who is now in private practice, said it would be difficult to prove criminal intent.

"I think even with the video, it's going to be tough to prove that this was more than just an accident and that it was even culpable negligence, which he should've known or should've believed that by getting close to this guy, that it was going to cause the accident," he said.

The sheriff renewed a plea for spectators to turn over photos and videos of the crash. Investigators were reconstructing the accident and looking into everything from the dim lighting on a portion of the track to how muddy it was, as well as if Ward's dark firesuit played

a role in his death, given the conditions.

Driver Cory Sparks, a friend of Ward's, was a few cars back when Ward was killed.

"The timing was unsafe," he said of Ward's decision to get out of his car to confront Stewart.

"When your adrenaline is going, and you're taken out of a race, your emotions flare."

It's often just a part of racing. Drivers from mild-mannered Jeff Gordon to ladylike Danica Patrick have erupted in anger on the track at another driver. The confrontations are part of the sport's allure: Fans love it and cheer wildly from the stands. Stewart, who has a reputation for being a hot-head nicknamed "Smoke," once wound up like a pitcher and tossed his helmet like a fastball at Matt Kenseth's windshield.

"I've seen it many times in NASCAR, where a driver will confront the other one, and a lot of times they'll try to speed past them. □

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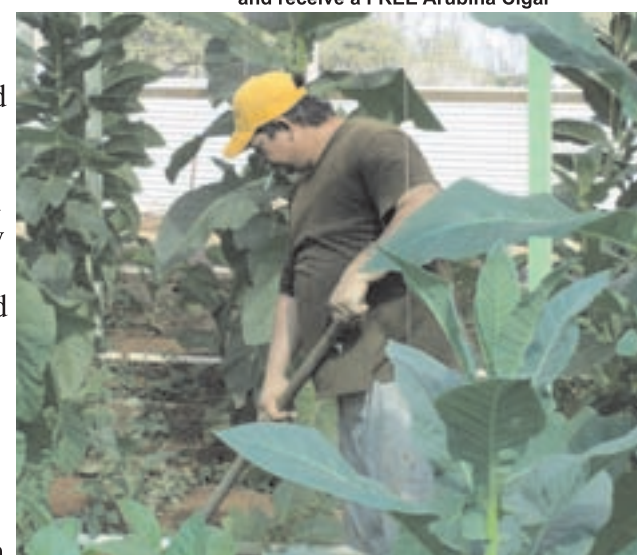
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South Korea's Mirim Lee wins Meijer LPGA Classic

GREG JOHNSON
Associated Press

BELMONT, Michigan (AP) —

Mirim Lee won the Meijer LPGA Classic on Sunday for her first LPGA Tour victory, beating fellow South Korean player Inbee Park with a birdie on the second hole of a playoff.

"I (was) nervous 100 percent," Lee said. "First time in playoff. Inbee Park is like a hero in Korea and all the young girls want to be her now in Korea."

The long-hitting Lee drove into greenside bunker on the second extra hole — the short par-4 17th — and blasted out to 5 feet. After Park's 15-foot birdie try lipped out, Lee holed her putt for the victory.

They each parred the 18th to open the playoff. Park's approach shot hit the cup on the way past and she missed a 15-foot birdie attempt. Lee two-putted from 35 feet.

Lee, a rookie on the LPGA Tour, closed with a 2-under 69 to match Park at 14-under 270. Park, a 10-time tour winner, finished with a 70. Lee is projected to jump to 29th in the world rankings. Norway's Suzann Pettersen was a stroke back after a 69. Park said the win will give Lee great confidence. "I think she was kind of, you know, thinking about whether she should come to the LPGA or whether she should stay in KPGA," Park said. "but I think this will definitely make her see she



Mirim Lee of South Korea drives on the seventh hole during the final round of the Meijer LPGA Classic golf tournament at Blythefield Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, in Belmont, Mich.

Associated Press

made a good decision."

With three holes to play, Park, Pettersen and Lee were tied for the lead at 14 under, but Pettersen had tree and sand troubles and made a bogey at 16 to fall a shot behind.

Park and Lee each missed birdie chances on the 17th. On the 18th, Lee two-putted for par from 40 feet, and Park made a 6-foot par putt.

Park said in the end the new blade putter she put in the bag this week let her down in the last round.

"I felt I hit a good putt, but it just didn't go in," she said of the final birdie attempt. "The putter just wasn't there. It was nice to shoot under par, but Mirim played well in the playoff holes."

Pettersen, who was playing in the group in front of Park

for the day, birdied the first two holes and eagled the par-5 fifth — hitting a 3-wood shot to 6 feet — to tie Park at 15 under.

Lee birdied the par-5 11th to pull within a shot of Park. After 10 consecutive pars, Park three-putted the par-3 14th for a bogey. It happened about the same time Pettersen was punching a shot from the trees to eight feet at 15 to set up a

birdie and another tie.

"It's nice to get four solid rounds of competition in," Pettersen said. "I've struggled this year, but it is coming. Disappointed to be one short, but it was nice to be back in contention straight after a three-week break." Lee, trailing most of the day by a shot or two, then joined Park and Pettersen at 14 under with a 5-foot birdie putt at 15. □

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Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, holds up the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Valhalla Golf Club on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, in Louisville, Ky.
Associated Press

McIlroy wins PGA in thrilling show on soggy turf

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The challenge finally arrived for Rory McIlroy, and he was better than ever Sunday to win the PGA Championship.

On a back nine filled with clutch shots and as much tension as a major can provide, McIlroy emerged from a four-man race to outlast Phil Mickelson and the darkness at Valhalla to capture his second straight major.

McIlroy closed with a 3-under 68 and became only

the fourth player in the last century of golf to win four majors at 25 or younger. The others were Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Jones, three of the game's greatest players. Boy Wonder appears on his way to belonging in that group.

"I didn't think in my wildest dreams I'd have a summer like this," said McIlroy, only the seventh player to win the last two majors of the year. "I played the best golf of my life. I really gutted it out today."

But one of the greatest shows on soggy turf came with a most peculiar ending. Three shots behind going to the back nine, McIlroy rallied to take the lead and then hit a 9-iron from the fairway bunker to 10 feet for birdie on the 17th hole for a two-shot lead going to the par-5 18th. Because of a two-hour rain delay earlier, darkness was falling quickly and it wasn't certain McIlroy would be able to finish.

McIlroy was allowed to hit his tee shot before Mickelson and Rickie Fowler had reached their drives. Both were only two shots behind, still in the game. McIlroy came within a yard of hitting in a hazard right of the fairway.

Then, the PGA of America allowed McIlroy to hit his second shot. Mickelson and Fowler had to stand to the side of the green.

"We were cool with hitting the tee shot," Fowler said. "We weren't expecting the approach shots."

Fowler had a 50-foot eagle attempt to tie for the lead.

He was well off the mark, and missed the short birdie putt attempt that cost him his third straight runner-up finish in a major. Mickelson was short of the green, and his chip came within inches of dropping for an eagle that would have tied him for the lead.

Mickelson appeared upset that they had to wait to finish the hole — not standard procedure in a PGA Tour event — and he made two references in a TV interview that this is the only championship the PGA of America runs all year.

"It didn't affect the outcome of the championship at all, I don't think," Mickelson said. "It's not what we normally do. It's not a big deal either way."

Mickelson closed with a 66 and was runner-up for the ninth time in a major.

Fowler became the first player in history to finish in the top five at all four majors without winning one. He closed with a 68 and tied for third with Henrik Stenson, who fell out of a share of the lead by missing a 3-foot par putt on the 14th hole. Stenson shot a 66.

McIlroy hit his second shot into a bunker, and he had to two-putt from 35 feet for the win. He lagged the first one to tap-in range, and the major was his. McIlroy repeatedly pumped his fist before letting out a scream above the gallery that had been treated to one of the best shows ever in a major. He won his first two majors by eight shots at the 2011 U.S. Open and 2012 PGA Championship. □

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AJ Allmendinger wins again at Watkins Glen

JOHN KEKIS

AP Sports Writer

WATKINS GLEN, New York (AP) —

AJ Allmendinger beat Marcos Ambrose on a two-lap dash to the finish to win the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Watkins Glen International on a somber Sunday.

The victory made his one-car team for JTG Daugherty Racing eligible for the Chase for the Sprint Cup title. Allmendinger held off Ambrose through the first two turns and opened a lead after both cars bumped and won going away.

Three-time Cup champion Tony Stewart pulled out of the race 12 hours after he struck and killed a sprint car driver who had climbed from his car during a race in nearby Canandaigua, New York.

Allmendinger offered his condolences to the Ward family after he won, saying "we're a community here, we're thinking about you."

In a statement released during the race by a spokesman,

Stewart said: "There aren't words to describe the sadness I feel about the accident that took the life of Kevin Ward Jr. It's a very emotional time for all involved, and it is the reason I've decided not to participate in today's race at Watkins Glen. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and everyone affected by this tragedy."

Regan Smith drove Stewart's car instead and finished 35th after having to start from the back of the

43-car field and getting caught in a late accident.

It was the second straight time Stewart missed the race at The Glen, where he has a NASCAR-record five victories. He suffered a broken leg in a sprint car accident in Iowa days before the Cup race and missed the rest of the season.

There were three restarts in the decisive closing laps.

Allmendinger got the jump on Ambrose in the first one with nine laps to go, but Jimmie Johnson was bumped in the first turn and his No. 48 spun around, collecting two other cars and precipitating a caution.

The race restarted again with five laps left and both Ambrose and Allmendinger were side-by-side through the esses, banging against each other before Ambrose took the lead in the chicane as he's done so many times in the past, dirt flying as both cars hit the grass.

Allmendinger wasn't done, regaining the lead on the next lap as he outbraked the Australian into turn 1 before a crash involving Denny Hamlin caused another red flag with four laps left.

The 90-lap race on the 2.45-mile layout was red-flagged for 1 hour, 21 minutes just past the midpoint after a violent crash involving Ryan Newman and Michael McDowell that involved three other cars.

Newman's Chevrolet spun hard into the Armco barrier lining the track, ripping a big hole in the barrier's metal. The car then spun



AJ Allmendinger waves the checkered flag as he celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Watkins Glen International, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014, in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Associated Press

around twice and went back across the racing surface, collecting McDowell in his No. 95, which incurred heavy damage in the rear. Newman, McDowell and Alex Bowman were treated in the infield care center and released.

Allmendinger gained the lead on lap 64 after pit stops, with Kurt Busch and Ambrose close behind.

Ambrose outbraked Busch into Turn 1 for second two laps later and set his sights

on Allmendinger, who had a 2-second lead that was wiped out by the late stoppages.

Jeff Gordon started from the pole and led the first 29 laps, holding Ambrose at bay. But Gordon's engine died on lap 50 as he lost all power and couldn't get it refired, spoiling a promising day. Gordon was second to Ambrose after the first round of pit stops and slightly faster when his car stalled.

Defending race winner Kyle Busch had to do a pass-through penalty after a fuel can stuck in his No. 18 Toyota. Back on the track, he shredded his left front tire after contact with Martin Truex Jr. and had to pit again and was out of contention.

Brad Keselowski, who was second the previous three races at The Glen, had contact early and brake problems and finished five laps back. □

Tsonga beats Federer in Toronto final

TORONTO (AP) — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga won the Rogers Cup on Sunday, beating second-seeded Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6 (3) for his fourth straight victory over a higher-seeded opponent.

The 13th-seeded Frenchman won his first ATP Tour title of the season and 11th overall. He beat top-ranked Novak Djokovic on Thursday, eighth-seeded Andy Murray on Friday and seventh-seeded Grigor Dimitrov on Saturday.

Tsonga improved to 5-11 against Federer.

Federer dropped to 2-5 in finals this season, with his victories coming in Dubai and Halle.

The Swiss star made several uncharacteristic errors and had a hard time with Tsonga's powerful serve and ground strokes.



France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga kisses the trophy after beating Switzerland's Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6 to win the Men's Rogers Cup singles final in Toronto on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

The first set was a rather choppy affair.

Both players made some unforced errors over the first few games, but each held serve. Tsonga struggled

with his first serve midway through the set, though his spin-heavy second serve was effective.

The quality of the match picked up late in the set.

With Tsonga serving at 5-5, Federer showed his skills at the net with a deft drop shot that a Tsonga could not retrieve. The Frenchman held to put the pressure back on Federer.

Federer struggled in the final game, spraying two shots long to fall behind 30-15. He pulled even with a winner, but was wide with a groundstroke that was unsuccessfully challenged, setting up the first break point opportunity of the set.

Federer launched a ball well long to give Tsonga the opening set in 44 minutes.

utes.

Tsonga kept the pressure on in the second set and had a break point chance with a 3-2 lead. Federer answered with an ace and fought back for the hold.

Tsonga then had a great chance with a 4-3 lead in the second set and a double-break point. However, Federer answered with two straight points to get to deuce. Tsonga had two more break point chances later in the game, but Federer saved them both and then held with an ace. In the tiebreaker, Tsonga picked up a mini-break at 4-3 and took the next three points for the victory.

In the doubles final, Bruno Soares Alexander Peya topped Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo 6-4, 6-3. □

Radwanska beats Venus Williams to win Rogers Cup



Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland holds up the winner's trophy after beating Venus Williams of the United States in the final at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014 in Montreal.

Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — Agnieszka Radwanska beat Venus Williams 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Rogers Cup title. The third-seeded Radwanska, the first Rogers Cup champion from Poland, picked up her first tournament victory of the year and the \$441,000 winner's prize. The 34-year-old Williams earned \$220,000.

The 25-year-old Radwanska used her relentless baseline game to dominate a tired-looking Williams, who was coming off an emotional, three-set victory over her top-ranked sister Serena Williams in a semifinal on Saturday.

Radwanska, ranked fifth in the world to Williams' 26th, posted her first Rogers Cup win after twice reaching the semifinals. It was her first tournament victory since 2013 at Seoul.

The Krakow native shot off to a 4-1 lead, but Williams answered with a break that had the fans on their feet. Radwanska hit a drop shot, Williams dropped back, Radwanska hit a lob and Williams got back in time to win the point with a cross-court smash.

Radwanska settled back in to finish the set and opened the second with a service break. □



This is a Friday night, Feb. 7, 1997, file photo of WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, right, and his promoter Frank Maloney, as they celebrate his victory over Oliver McCall at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas. Lewis captured the title with a fifth round TKO of McCall.

Associated Press

Ex-boxing promoter Maloney having sex change

LONDON (AP) — Former boxing promoter Frank Maloney announced in a newspaper interview Sunday that he is undergoing a sex change.

The 61-year-old Maloney, who guided Lennox Lewis to the world heavyweight title in the 1990s, told Britain's Sunday Mirror newspaper that he is now living as a woman under the name Kellie.

The twice-married Maloney

ended his illustrious career last October and told the paper he has been undergoing hormone treatment for two years in preparation for a sex change operation.

"I was born in the wrong body and I have always known I was a woman," Maloney was quoted as saying by the Mirror. "I can't keep living in the shadows. That is why I am doing what I am today. Living with the

burden any longer would have killed me.

"What was wrong at birth is now being medically corrected. I have a female brain. I knew I was different from the minute I could compare myself to other children. I wasn't in the right body. I was jealous of girls." Maloney said his boxing career helped bring in enough money to walk away from the sport and live a new life as a woman. □

U.S. spying revelations bring German encryption boom

MARTHA MENDOZA
FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press
MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (AP) — Revelations about the U.S. National Security Agency's electronic eavesdropping capabilities have sparked anger in Germany and a boom in encryption services that make it hard for the most sophisticated spies to read emails, listen to calls or look through texts.

Jon Callas, co-founder of Silent Circle, which sells an encryption app allowing users to talk and text in private, said a series of disclosures from former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden last year have been good for business.

Silent Circle is one of several online security companies cashing in on new security-conscious customers around the world who want to shield their communications from foreign governments — and nowhere is the market hotter than in Germany, whose chancellor, Angela Merkel, was reported to be a target.

"Germans have always been particularly attuned to security and privacy concerns," Callas said. "I think that culturally, Germany has seen privacy problems in their recent past. There are people who remember the communists.

There is still a cultural sore spot over security and privacy, an understanding of what can go wrong better than any other place in the world."

The companies' customers range from diplomats and journalists to privacy advocates and people trying to protect trade secrets.

Although Silent Circle doesn't provide specific numbers, Callas said it saw a "huge increase" in subscriptions to its private phone and text service after Snowden's disclosures and a spike in Germany after two reported cases of suspected U.S. spying there this year.

And while the technology has Silicon Valley roots, the

servers are in Canada and Switzerland, two countries with strong privacy protections. Two weeks ago, Silent Circle also began selling a secure smartphone, whose first run sold out, Callas said. At CeBIT, a leading tech industry event held annually in the German city of Hannover, Deutsche Telekom was among several companies to launch new security products after Snowden's revelations.

"I want to send a personal thanks to the NSA, because we wouldn't be having this discussing if that hadn't happened," Reinhard Clemens, a Deutsche Telekom board member, told reporters. "That was the best marketing campaign we've ever had."

The company, known for its T-Mobile brand in the United States, sells a smartphone app that encrypts voice and data traffic. It was developed with Berlin-based firm GSMK, an offshoot of the German hacking group Chaos Computer Club.

Customers seeking an all-in-one solution can buy GSMK's \$2,750 secure cellphone that will protect confidential communications from all but the most dedicated eavesdroppers. Chief Executive Bjoern Rupp said his company has seen a surge of interest in its encryption technology since details of the NSA's surveillance capabilities leaked last year.

"Snowden is transforming the industry," Rupp told The Associated Press. "There is a completely new consciousness about security." Since launching in 2003, the company has sold about 100,000 secure devices, but the number of apps sold in the past year is "in another dimension," said Rupp, without revealing a precise figure.

British rival Vodafone, meanwhile, launched its own "Secure Call" app at the CeBIT fair with the claim it would allow users to make "calls that are as secure as those of the German government."

Merkel herself used to



In this photo taken Wednesday, July 30, 2014, Silicon Valley pioneer and Silent Circle co-founder Jon Callas shows off his Blackphone with encryption apps on it while standing by a mobile phone display at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

be photographed with a Nokia slider phone. Since reports surfaced that the NSA had listed her among its foreign intelligence targets, the chancellor has avoided being seen with low-end devices.

Her new gadget, as widely reported, is a top-range BlackBerry outfitted with a custom-made security suite made by German compa-

ny Secusmart — endorsed for sensitive communications by Germany's Federal Office for Information Security.

Apparently seizing on the opportunity, BlackBerry recently announced it was buying Secusmart.

Ravishankar Borgaonkar, who works with Telekom Innovation Laboratories and FG Security in Berlin, uses an

app on his Samsung smartphone that detects how secure each call is with red and green buttons.

For those who don't want to take any chances, the revelations have also sparked a retro trend. The country's business weekly *Wirtschaftswoche* recently reported typewriter sales rising for the first time in years. □

U.S. bots flagged Ebola before outbreak announced

RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is focusing a spotlight on an online tool run by experts in Boston that flagged a "mystery hemorrhagic fever" in forested areas of southeastern Guinea nine days before the World Health Organization formally announced the epidemic.

HealthMap uses algorithms to scour tens of thousands of social media sites, local news, government websites, infectious-disease physicians' social networks and other sources to detect and track disease out-

breaks. Sophisticated software filters irrelevant data, classifies the relevant information, identifies diseases and maps their locations with the help of experts.

"It shows some of these informal sources are helping paint a picture of what's happening that's useful to these public health agencies," HealthMap co-founder John Brownstein said. HealthMap is operated by a group of 45 researchers, epidemiologists and software developers at Boston Children's Hospital.

The tool was introduced in 2006 with a core audience

of public health specialists, but that changed as the system evolved and the public became increasingly hungry for information during the swine flu pandemic. HealthMap generates information that includes locations of specific outbreaks and tracks new cases and deaths. The system is also capable of logging public sentiment.

The Ebola outbreak, the largest and longest ever recorded for the disease, has so far killed more than 950 people. It emerged in Guinea in March and has since spread to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria. □

Ebola starting to take an economic toll in region

By PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Caterpillar has evacuated a handful of employees from Liberia. Canadian Overseas Petroleum Ltd. has suspended a drilling project. British Airways has canceled flights to the region. ExxonMobil and Chevron are waiting to see whether health officials can contain the danger.

The Ebola outbreak, which has claimed nearly 1,000 lives, is disrupting business and inflicting economic damage in the three Afri-

can countries at the center of the crisis: Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. So far, analysts say the crisis doesn't threaten the broader African or global economies.

"We must make sure it is controlled and contained as quickly as possible," said Olusegun Aganga, trade minister in Nigeria, which has confirmed nine cases of Ebola. "Once that is done, I don't think it will have a lasting impact on the economy."

The World Health Organization on Friday declared the



In this June 20, 2012 file photo, earth-moving tractors and equipment made by Peoria, Ill.-based Caterpillar Inc. are seen in Clinton, Ill. Caterpillar and several mining companies have evacuated employees from Liberia. British Airlines has canceled flights to the region. Exxon and Chevron say they're waiting to see whether public health authorities can contain the Ebola outbreak in three West African countries.

Kinder Morgan to combine its family of companies

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The group of oil and gas pipeline and storage companies controlled by Kinder Morgan but traded separately will combine and become the 4th biggest U.S. energy company by market value.

The companies announced Sunday that Kinder Morgan Inc., Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, Kinder Morgan Management and El Paso Pipeline Partners will all combine under the Kinder Morgan Inc. umbrella and trade under the KMI ticker symbol.

Houston-based Kinder Morgan Inc. says the total purchase price of the three other companies is \$71 billion, including \$27 billion of assumed debt.

The combined market value of the four companies was \$92 billion as of the close of the market Friday. That would make it the fourth largest U.S. energy company after Exxon Mobil, Chevron and ConocoPhillips. The combination means Kinder Morgan will abandon a novel corporate structure it pioneered and leveraged to great benefit, called the Master Limited Partnership. MLPs are given special tax breaks in part because they distribute much of their cash flow to investors and the partners who run

the companies.

MLPs have become especially popular in recent years because investors have been willing to pay a premium for high-yielding investments at a time when interest rates on savings accounts and bonds are low. The investor enthusiasm has helped make it easier for MLPs to raise money to buy pipelines or build new ones to grow their portfolios.

The Kinder Morgan Partners MLP is so big, though, that investors have questioned whether it could continue to grow under the requirement that it distribute so much of its cash.

CEO Richard Kinder said in a statement Sunday that it will be easier for the combined company to add new pipeline projects and other energy infrastructure in a way that will add to the company's earnings.

"In the opportunity-rich environment of today's energy infrastructure sector, we believe this transaction gives us the ability to grow KMI for years to come," Kinder said. Kinder Morgan said it expects the combined company's debt will be rated investment grade by rating agencies, which would allow it to borrow money for new projects at relatively low rates.

The deal is subject to shareholder and regulatory approval. It is expected to close this year. □

outbreak an international public health emergency. The WHO didn't recommend any travel or trade bans. But it cautioned anyone who had had close contact with Ebola patients to avoid international travel and urged exit screenings at international airports and border crossings.

"When you have a widespread outbreak of Ebola, you can end up with a panic," said John Campbell, senior fellow for Africa studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. "People won't go to work. Expatriates will leave. Economic activity will slow. Fields won't get planted."

The World Bank estimates that the outbreak will shrink economic growth in Guinea, where the crisis emerged in March, from 4.5 percent to 3.5 percent this year.

Ama Egyaba Baidu-Forson, an economist at IHS Global Insight who focuses on sub-Saharan Africa, is cutting her forecasts for growth this year in Liberia and Sierra Leone. She warned that prices would rise as food and other staples become scarce and that the region's already fragile governments would run up big budget deficits in fighting Ebola.

Baidu-Forson says the countries hit by Ebola ultimately could require financial help from the International Monetary Fund.

In the meantime, multinational companies that do business in the resource-rich region are scrambling to respond to the crisis. Among them:

- Heavy equipment manufacturer Caterpillar Inc., based in Peoria, Illinois, has "evacuated less than 10 people" from Liberia, company spokeswoman Barbara Cox said by email. In a statement, Caterpillar said: "The health and safety of our people is our top priority.... We will continue to monitor the situation closely."

- British Airways has announced that it's suspending flights to and from Liberia and Sierra Leone through Aug. 31 "due to the deteriorating public health situation in both countries."

- Tawana Resources, an Australian iron-ore company, said it had suspended "all non-essential field activities within Liberia" and sent all non-essential African workers, expatriates and contractors home.

- London-based mining company African Minerals has begun imposing health checks and travel restric-

tions on employees in the region.

- Canadian Overseas Petroleum, based in Calgary, has stopped drilling in Liberia. And some of its expatriate employees have left the country.

- ExxonMobil said in a statement that its offices remain open and that "we're taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of our employees." The company has offices in Liberia, Nigeria and several other African nations.

- Chevron, which has an office in the Liberian capital of Monrovia and is in the process of exploring for oil off Liberia's coast, said it's "closely monitoring the outbreak of Ebola virus in West Africa." But the company wouldn't say whether it was withdrawing any employees or taking any other steps as a result of the outbreak.

So far, the economic damage has not affected West Africa's biggest economy, Nigeria's, though the disease has already spread to that country.

"It's not stopped commerce; it's not stopped buying," said Danladi Verheijen, managing director of the investment firm Verod Capital. "The flights are still full going into Nigeria." □



In this Aug. 5, 2014 photo corn plants are seen in a field near Ladora, Iowa.

Associated Press

Cool summer sets expectations for a record harvest

DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Corn and soybean farmers in the U.S. are on track to produce record crops this year as a mild summer has provided optimum growing conditions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has predicted a record soybean crop of 3.8 billion bushels. The USDA said last month the corn crop will be just under last year's record

of 13.9 billion bushels, but many market analysts and farmers expect that to be revised upward Tuesday in a much anticipated report. Technology is also aiding the large harvests with high-yield seeds and planting systems that use GPS. The harvest forecast has driven corn and soybean prices significantly lower, but it isn't expected to make much of a short-time difference in consumer food prices. □

Volkswagen recalls some Tiguan

NEW YORK (AP) — Volkswagen of America is recalling 151,389 Tiguan SUVs due to the possibility of stalling. No accidents or injuries have been reported. The problem is with fuel pumps on some models from 2009 to 2014. Gas bubbles may form in the fuel system when winterized fuel is used in warmer months or warmer areas, which could lead to the car stalling. Volkswagen is notifying all owners of the vehicles about the recall. Dealers are installing revised software in the cars to fix this issue. □

Panama Canal chief: drought could limit shipping

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The head of the Panama Canal Authority says officials might be forced to limit the draft of ships by the end of this year or early in 2015 if a drought continues and lowers the level of lakes that feed the waterway's locks. Jorge Luis Quintano tells Panama's Channel 2 television station that unusually light rainfall has dropped the level of Lakes Gatun and Alajuela. He says he's hoping for healthy rainfall in the normally rainy months of October, November and December. □

Malaysia plans overhaul of national airline



A Malaysia Airlines Boeing 737-800 plane sits on tarmac at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Friday, Aug. 8, 2014.

Associated Press

EILEEN NG
Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's state investment company said Friday it plans to make Malaysia Airlines fully government owned, removing it from the country's stock exchange before carrying out an overhaul of the carrier that is reeling from double disasters.

Khazanah Nasional, which owns 69 percent of Malaysia Airlines, said it has proposed to the carrier's board that it buy out minority shareholders at 27 sen (8 cents) a share, which is 29 percent higher than the airline's average share price over the previous three months. The takeover would cost 1.38 billion ringgit (\$429 million). Malaysia Airlines has been hit by two major disasters this year, which added to its longstanding financial woes.

In March, Flight 370 from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing disappeared with 239 people on board after flying far of course. The plane has still not been found, with a search in the southern Indian Ocean underway. In July, 298 people were killed when Flight 17 was

shot down over Ukraine. It was heading to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam and was shot out of the sky over an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian separatists. Khazanah said the state takeover will represent the first stage of a "complete overhaul" of the loss-making airline, and that detailed plans will be announced by the end of this month.

"The proposed restructuring will critically require all parties to work closely together," it said in a statement.

"Nothing less will be required in order to revive our national airline to be profitable as a commercial entity and to serve its function as a critical national development entity."

Before the disasters, the carrier's financial performance was among the worst in the industry, putting a question mark over its future even before its brand was tied to two almost unfathomable tragedies. It has lost money for the past three years and been through several episodes of restructuring, instigated by Khazanah, over the past decade.

As a state-owned flag carrier, Malaysia Airlines is required to fly unprofitable domestic routes, and its strong union has resisted operational changes. Nimble discount rivals such as Air Asia have expanded rapidly, while Malaysia Airlines has been like a super-tanker, slow to change direction.

Shukor Yusof, founder of aviation research firm Endau Analytics, said another restructuring won't yield positive results if fundamental problems aren't addressed.

"I'm skeptical of the success of it because I'm not sure it will address the root problems of the airline," he said.

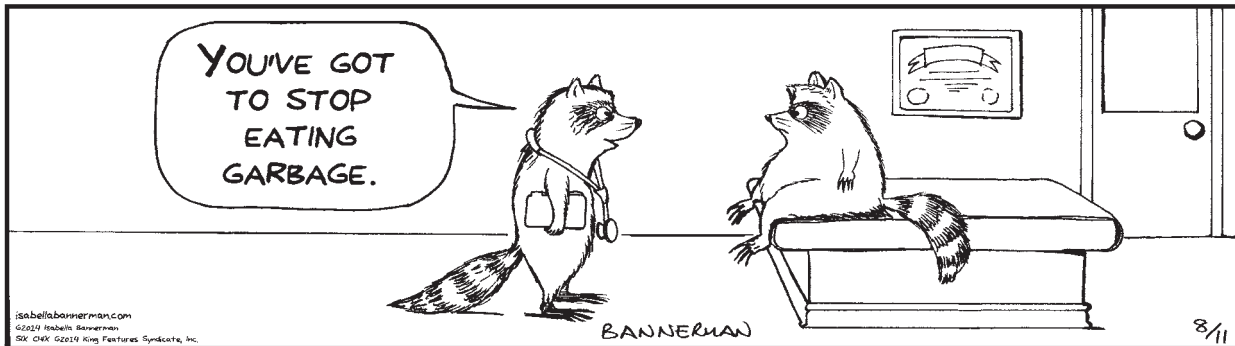
Its biggest problems are \$4 billion of debt accumulated since 2002, unprofitable routes and bloated staff numbers, Shukor said.

Some analysts say the airline wouldn't survive a year without a substantial cash injection from the Malaysian government. Crisis management experts have said Malaysia Airlines must take dramatic steps, such as replacing its top executives and changing its name, to win back customers. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



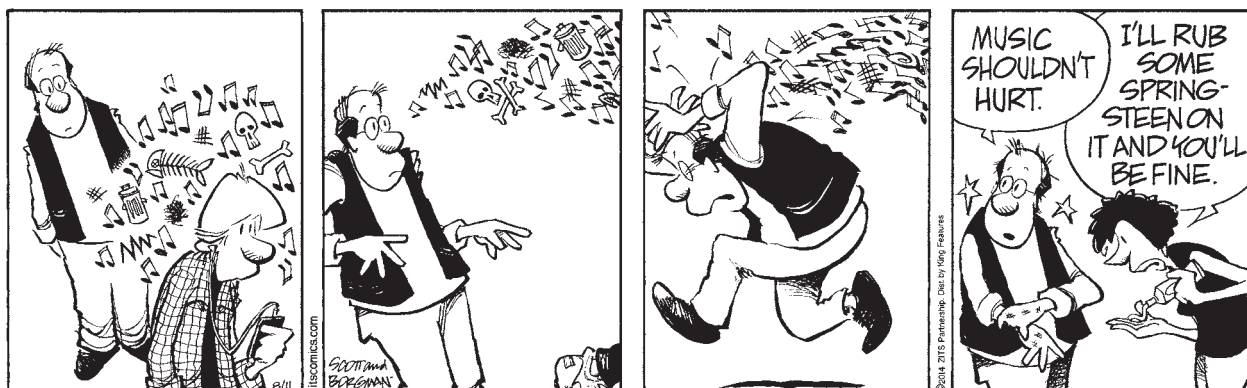
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8		5	9				6
9	3		1		2	8		
	7			4		9		
					7		4	1
		8				5		
2	6		4					
		7		1			9	
		4	9		8		3	5
3				6	5		1	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

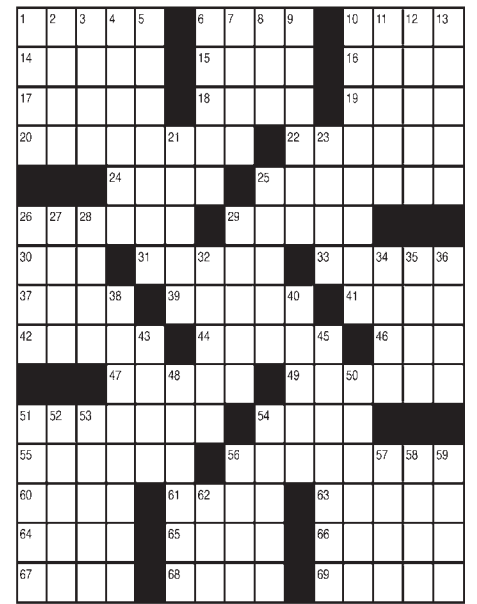
8	3	4	2	6	1	9	7	5
7	6	1	8	5	9	4	2	3
2	5	9	7	4	3	1	8	6
5	1	2	3	8	6	7	4	9
9	4	6	1	7	2	5	3	8
3	8	7	4	9	5	6	1	2
6	2	3	9	1	7	8	5	4
4	7	5	6	3	8	2	9	1
1	9	8	5	2	4	3	6	7

ACROSS

- Flowering birch tree
- Related
- Competent
- up; make a mess of things
- Thin metal thread
- Black card
- Chop finely
- Invites
- Fires, slangily
- Athletic shoes
- Sharp sudden jab of pain
- Yearn; long
- Make joyous
- Greek capital
- "Blue Shoes"; song for Elvis
- Female deer
- Wild winds
- with; bestow on
- Middle; historical period
- Thrill
- Cab
- As a wet hen
- Dwelling
- Four and six
- Upper rooms
- Cuckoo
- Grassland
- Unit of land
- Clothing
- Get rid of a knot
- Maize
- Bookish fellow
- Like toasted marshmallows
- Patella's place
- Actor Nicolas
- Wipe away
- Stitches
- Colors
- Seasons at the table

DOWN

- Donation to a poor box
- Cut of pork
- Sand mound
- Get away
- Like one who's used too much perfume
- In the know
- Smooch
- Annoy
- Get comfy
- Car crash
- Not very tasty
- Dive forward
- Actor Buddy
- Follow as a result of
- Walk through shallow water
- Zest
- Actor Sandler
- Old Roman garment
- Pay attention
- Punctures
- Blackboard
- Facts & figures
- Plow animals
- Chablis or chardonnay
- Soda crackers
- Royal decree



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 8/11/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

BOY	SCAMP	ACTS
ODES	COCOA	GLUE
ADAM	ROMPS	AUNT
SHAMELESS	SEAS	
SEES	WAS	
AFGHAN	PHONIST	
CREEL	FAIRY	MOO
HATS	POSED	LOBO
EMU	PLOTS	HOTEL
SEPARATE	METERS	
DOC	LILT	
UNDO	ANNULMENT	
PAIR	ROUND	ROAD
OPEN	DODGE	YULE
NETS	SNEER	NEW

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- Bitter
- Infuriates
- Language heard in Paris
- Madame in Madrid
- Fills a suitcase
- Make amends
- Scatter
- Mount
- Aconcagua's range
- Craving; yen
- Hockey score
- In case
- Optometrist's concerns
- de cologne

Woman, 78, caught with cash in girdle at airport

ROMULUS, Michigan (AP) — A 78-year-old Florida woman tried to fly on an international trip to the Philippines from Detroit Metropolitan Airport with almost \$41,000 in cash hidden inside her girdle, bra and carry-on bag, federal authorities said. A complaint filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Detroit said the Clearwater woman was trying to board a flight April 2 to the Philippines with her daughter. She initially said she had \$200 in cash but submitted a form declaring she had \$1,200, prompting questions. During a search, Customs and Border Protection officers found \$8,000 in wallets in her carry-on bag, \$4,000 sewn into a cloth pouch and nearly \$1,000 in en-

velopes, according to the complaint. She then told them she had \$3,000 in her blouse and \$2,000 sewn into the strap of her bra. Officers continued to search and said they found about \$21,000 in her girdle. The woman told authorities that she had recently sold her home for \$120,000, wired some money to the Philippines and had planned to carry a portion of the money with her. "She stated that she did not wire the proceeds to the Philippines this time because she thought it was safer to carry the money," according to the complaint. Federal law requires travelers to declare if they are carrying more than \$10,000. □

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Bad bite: A tick can make you allergic to red meat

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

A bug can turn you into a vegetarian, or at least make you swear off red meat. Doctors across the U.S. are seeing a surge of sudden meat allergies in people bitten by a certain kind of tick.

This bizarre problem was only discovered a few years ago but is growing as the ticks spread from the Southwest and the East to more parts of the United States. In some cases, eating a burger or a steak has landed people in the hospital with severe allergic reactions.

Few patients seem aware of the risk, and even doctors are slow to recognize it. As one allergist who has seen 200 cases on New York's Long Island said, "Why would someone think they're allergic to meat when they've been eating it their whole life?"

The culprit is the Lone Star tick, named for Texas, a state famous for meaty barbecues. The tick is now found throughout the South and the eastern half of the United States.

Researchers think some other types of ticks also might cause meat allergies; cases have been reported in Australia, France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Japan and Korea.

Here's how it happens: The bugs harbor a sugar that humans don't have, called alpha-gal. The sugar is also found in red meat — beef, pork, venison, rabbit — and even some dairy products. It's usually fine when people encounter it through food that gets digested.

But a tick bite triggers an immune system response,



This undated photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a Lone Star tick. Associated Press

and in that high-alert state, the body perceives the sugar the tick transmitted to the victim's bloodstream and skin as a foreign substance, and makes antibodies to it. That sets the stage for an allergic reaction the next time the person eats red meat and encounters the sugar.

It happened last summer to Louise Danzig, a 63-year-old retired nurse.

Hours after eating a burger, "I woke up with very swollen hands that were on fire with itching," she said. As she headed downstairs, "I could feel my lips and tongue were getting swollen," and by the time she made a phone call for help, "I was losing my ability to speak and my airway

I woke up and my body was on fire. I was itching all over and I broke out in hives. Nothing like that had ever happened to me before," she said.

A few weeks later, for a brother's birthday, she ordered another steak. Hours later she woke "almost hysterical" with a constricted throat in addition to hives and a burning sensation. She, too, recalled tick bites. Dr. Robert Valet at Vanderbilt University said Simmons was one of two patients he diagnosed with the meat allergy that day. He warned her it could be worse next time.

"I never did eat a lot of red meat anyway but when I go out I like a nice fillet. Right now I wouldn't even eat hamburger meat," Simmons said.

At the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, "I see two to three new cases every week," said Dr. Scott Commins, who with a colleague, Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills, published the first paper tying the tick to the illness in 2011.

One of the first cases they saw was a bow hunter who had eaten meat all his life but landed in the emergency department several times with allergic reactions after eating meat. More cases kept turning up in people who were outdoors a lot.

"It seemed something geographical. We thought at first it might be a squirrel

parasite," Commins said. "It took us a while to sort of put everything together" and finger the tick, he said. Dr. Erin McGintee, an allergy specialist on eastern Long Island, an area with many ticks, has seen nearly 200 cases over the last three years. At least 30 involved children, and the youngest was 4 or 5. She is keeping a database to study the illness with other researchers.

"It is bizarre," she said. "It goes against almost anything I've ever learned as an allergist," because the symptoms can occur as long as eight hours after eating meat, rather than immediately, and the culprit is a sugar — a type of carbohydrate — whereas most food allergies are caused by proteins, she said.

Allergic reactions can be treated with antihistamines to ease itching, and more severe ones with epinephrine. Some people with the allergy now carry epinephrine shots in case they are stricken again.

Doctors don't know if the allergy is permanent. Some patients show signs of declining antibodies over time, although those with severe reactions are understandably reluctant to risk eating meat again. Even poultry products such as turkey sausage sometimes contain meat by-products and can trigger the allergy. □

was closing." She had had recent tick bites, and a blood test confirmed the meat allergy.

"I'll never have another hamburger, I'm sure," Danzig said. "I definitely do not want to have that happen to me again."

In Mount Juliet, 71-year-old Georgette Simmons went to a steakhouse on June 1 for a friend's birthday and had a steak.

"About 4:30 in the morning





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'Mad Max' director 'heartbroken' over Mel Gibson

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — "Mad Max" director George Miller was "heartbroken" over Mel Gibson's string of scandals in recent years, and said plans for a new trilogy prompted him to pick a younger actor for revisiting the post-apocalyptic auto action franchise.

The 69-year-old Australian director helped launch Gibson to stardom three decades ago in the trilogy featuring stark desert landscapes, intense car chases and a bleach blonde Tina Turner. Miller had originally hoped to bring Gibson back for a fourth film in the role of Max Rockatansky. But a series of delays led to recasting, with Tom Hardy, 36, stepping into the road warrior's black boots.

"I have a great affection for Mel. I was really heartbroken to see him go into that," Miller said in a recent interview. "But it's a new time. I hope Mel gets to act in more movies because I think he's a wonderful actor. But I think he's an amazingly good director." Miller describes "Mad Max:

Fury Road" as an extended chase taking place over three days. The movie, due out next summer and also starring Charlize Theron, features minimal dialogue. The screenplay consisted of storyboards -- sketches of each planned shot -- rather than a conventional script.

"You're picking up the characters and the back-story as you go," Miller said. "And in order to create that backstory, we found ourselves having written two other screenplays. One of them is completed. The other one is in the form of a kind of unedited novel. So by the time we got there, we realized we've got a couple more Mad Max stories to tell, and that ... required us to cast someone who was younger."

Miller showed footage from "Mad Max: Fury Road" at the recent Comic-Con International in San Diego. He's still finishing work on the movie, his return to live action after directing the animated "Happy Feet" in 2006 and 2011's sequel.

"Roman Polanski had a saying, which is that there's



This July 26, 2014 file photo shows director George Miller speaking at the Warner Bros. Pictures panel for "Mad Max: Fury Road" on Day 3 of Comic-Con International in San Diego.

Associated Press

only one perfect place for the camera at any given time. And I learned that on the animations," Miller said. "You can move the camera wherever you like. But to tell the story -- it was interesting how much you could influence the story by simply shooting from another perspective."

There is, of course, a heightened sense of danger when you're moving said

camera through a high-speed motorcycle and dune buggy chase in the harsh Australian outback -- not circling cute dancing penguins via computer software.

"Particularly a film like this where we wanted to shoot like real, old-school," Miller said. "Every car you see smashed is a real car. Every stuntman you see is a real person, and in many cases

the cast. ... It's like being in the middle of a real-life video game getting that footage. One, two inches too far one way or the other or a miscue and you've got disaster on your hands. It was both exhilarating and very wearying."

There were only minor injuries during the shoot, Miller said. "Mad Max: Fury Road" will roll into theatres next May. □

Daniel Radcliffe now into indies, but 'Potter' trails

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — J.K. Rowling published a new Harry Potter short story last month. And Daniel Radcliffe braced himself once again.

The 25-year-old British star faces consistent and persistent questions from fans and the press about whether he'll return to the character that he spent much of his childhood playing. Rowling's story of a 34-year-old Potter posted online was not going to help matters.

"I go, 'OK, thank you Jo. I'll be answering questions about this,'" Radcliffe said in a recent interview. "She can't help it. She wrote me 10 years older and people are still asking me if I'm go-

ing to be doing it. He's 10 years older than I am in this story so it's really not even a hypothetical at the moment. I would obviously never say never because that's a foolish thing to say, but I would have to think long and hard before I ever went back to anything."

Radcliffe was at Comic-Con International in San Diego promoting one of his two upcoming films, the darkly comic horror tale "Horns." In it, he plays a man accused of killing his girlfriend who grows horns that prompt people around him to reveal their darkest secrets.

The actor is used to hearing unexpectedly personal stories from strangers. Fans tend to overshare some of their troubles when they

get a chance to meet the man who played the famously scarred boy wizard in eight movies from 2001 to 2011.

"Being a celebrity who is associated with something that was very much part of people's childhoods and very close to a lot of peoples' hearts, yeah, you get people who do come up to you," he said. "And I'm always happy to talk to people. I never mind hearing something deeply personal, but I always do think, 'Should you be telling me this?'"

Radcliffe notes that soap opera actors face a similar phenomenon, since they're in the homes of audiences so regularly. Still, he doesn't want to be the sole person hearing about



Daniel Radcliffe, a cast member in the film "What If," is pictured at IvyConnect's Innovator Film Awards at the Landmark Theatres on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014 in Los Angeles.

tough times.

"I often say, you should talk to somebody else who you can have regular conversations with about this," Radcliffe said.

"Horns," directed by Alexandre Aja, is set for release Oct. 31. Radcliffe's other new film, the romantic comedy "What If," opened this weekend. □

Age is not a cage: 90-year-old musicians go strong

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—There's an upcoming concert at Baruch College, but it has nothing to do with students. The performers are in their 90s, and one is even older than the Manhattan school founded in 1919.

Pianist and composer Irving Fields, who turned 99 last week, will perform a show Monday night dubbed "90 and Going Strong" at the college along with Emmy-winning entertainer Fyvush Finkel and clarinetist Sol Yaged, both 91. The concert celebrates their passion and commitment to music and live performance despite their age.

"I call myself 99 years young. Age is just a number," Fields said in an interview. "Music keeps me younger. ... I play 10 notes, I'm 40 years younger. I play a whole concerto, I'm like Benjamin Button!"

The trio's concert will be their second in a month at the 175-seat Engelman Recital Hall in the Baruch Performing Arts Center. Tickets cost \$35. "It was so successful. It was jam-packed," Fields said of their first show. The performers have played music since their teenage years and enjoyed success by writing songs and appearing

on television, in films and onstage. Fields, who recorded many albums, has written songs recorded by Sarah Vaughan and Dinah Shore. He also composed "Miami Beach Rhumba," which was used in Woody Al-

"I said D! I'll give you my hearing aid. I have an extra one," he replies as Finkel laughs.

Later, while performing together, Fields speeds up on piano.

"I'm not ready for your tempo yet!" Yaged yells.

during the "90 and Going Strong" concert. During rehearsals, he was playing a clarinet he remembers buying in 1935 for \$125, which he earned from shining shoes. He charged customers a nickel.

appeared in various films and television shows, including "Boston Public." They want audiences to not be fooled by their age — they say they feel stronger than ever in their 90s. When asked how different performing today is compared to their earlier years, Finkel said: "Big difference. I'll tell you the difference."

"We get paid now," Yaged chimed in.

"Our least interest is to get paid. But to get on we get such a thrill," Finkel added. "In fact, we do things better now than we did before. To me every show is an opening night."

Fields, who performs regularly at Nino's Tuscany in New York City, echoed Finkel's sentiment.

"I've lived longer. I've seen more of life," he said. "I take chances now on things I couldn't do, and it works."

Fields is working on a documentary about his career and has penned a song honoring the Statue of Liberty called "Here's to the Lady," which he will perform Monday.

He says he doesn't plan to slow down in his career.

"I'm only 99, and well, I hope I live to be 109," Fields said. "I want to at least get to 100. I am so fulfilled when I play your favorite song." □



Clarinetist Sol Yaged, 91, comedian Fyvush Finkel, 91 and composer Irving Fields, 99, left to right, pose for photos after a rehearsal at the Baruch Performing Arts Center, in New York, Friday, Aug. 8, 2014.

len's "Deconstructing Harry."

During a rehearsal Friday afternoon, the men were chatting away, sipping coffee and eating bagels. They have known one another for years and say their passion for music remains strong.

"What key are we in?" Yaged, holding his clarinet, says to Fields.

"I love you, but you drive me nuts," Fields replies.

Despite some tense moments, there was a sense of love — for one another and for music — which was evident once they tightened their lips and played their instruments. Yaged, who was heavily influenced by Benny Goodman, will perform with a five-piece band

Associated Press

Finkel, too, recalls his first paying gig at a Jewish theater in Brooklyn when he was 9.

"A dollar a night. I was the hero of the family," said the actor, singer and comedian, who will open the show Monday. Finkel earned an Emmy Award in 1994 for his role in the CBS drama series "Picket Fences." He has



Retired Gurkha Gauparasad Gurung shelters from the rain underneath a poncho during a launch event for The Military Wives choir's new recording of 'Pack Up Your Troubles', proceeds of which will benefit charitable organisation SSAFA, at South Bank, London, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014.

Associated Press.

New life for song dubbed 'viral hit of WWI'

LONDON (AP) — A century ago, British soldiers marched off to fight in World War I to a cheerful, bittersweet tune urging them to "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile!"

Now veterans, military families and serving soldiers have taken to the choir stands to give the hit song a new life and to mark 100 years since the start of the Great War.

A choir organized by a Brit-

ish military charity braved torrential rains to perform the song Sunday in central London, launching a new recording of what Aubrey Powell, the grandson of the original's co-composer George Powell, described as "the viral hit of WWI."

"Pack Up Your Troubles" was a widely-known music-hall style tune used to boost morale and a sense of unity among troops and on the home front.

"There couldn't have been

a person alive then who didn't know someone fighting. It affected everybody, and having that song united people," said Rachel Smith, one of the musical directors involved in the project.

She added that the song's simple melody and lyrics gave it its enduring appeal, and is still relevant today because it "makes us think a little more about what people were going through." □

The Panda Angle



Gail Collins

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About politics and pandas ... This is obviously an attempt to get your attention by bringing up a cute and cuddly animal. But give me a break. It's August.

Congress, as you know, has gone on vacation after setting a spectacular record for nonachievement. Some members are now home, preparing for hard-fought re-election battles in districts where nobody can predict the outcome. That would be about 12 of them. Others are preparing to campaign obsessively even though it's already obvious that they're going to win.

And then a bunch of them are off on trips. Because, August.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a veteran New York Democrat, is in China on an expedition financed by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. While she's there, she'll be making the usual round of meetings and tours. Also, she'll be visiting a national panda research base - from which, Maloney has suggested a time or 12, she would like to get a couple of bears for New York City. "The greatest city in the world deserves two pandas," she told the Daily News.

Controversy arose when Maloney's Republican opponent, Nick Di Iorio, complained that the congresswoman should be thinking about serious problems like jobs and Israel, where he is going on his trip. "It's not a time we have a luxury of bringing back animals for a zoo," he declared in a phone interview.

I'm not sure this is true. We all know that we're not going to be getting a thing out of Congress next year, no matter who wins the elections. In that case, wouldn't it be cool to have a panda?

It's kind of metaphysical, really.

Or pragmatic. A happy electorate is an electorate with extremely low expectations. Congress never should have abolished earmarks. If we still had earmarks, we could just send these people off to Washington, cross our fingers

and hope they'll come home with a new highway exit.

While it is true that I once wrote that Carolyn Maloney is the kind of politician who would pander to a door-knob, this bear quest seems like a totally worthy endeavor. Even though there are no zoos in her district.

On the other hand, you cannot blame Di Iorio for raising the issue, since his options for getting media attention are pretty much limited to walking down Broadway naked or mentioning an adorable animal. (Or maybe starring in a reality TV show about hopeless congressional candidates. This did come up, but Di Iorio says he decided to drop the idea even before it became clear that the promoter was not going to be able to sell the series.)

Anyhow, the district is so heavily Democratic that the panda itself would win if it had the party line on the ballot. "Carolyn Maloney couldn't lose if she tried," said David Wasserman of The Cook Political Report.

Most Americans already know that their congressional elections are foregone conclusions. The Cook Report estimates 364 of the House races are in that general category. Meanwhile, there are 16 that are really competitive, about two dozen that are sort of competitive, and 32 others in which the challenger at least has a reason to get out of bed in the morning.

So Maloney's constituents may look back at the panda exchange as the dramatic high point of the election season. And they will be luckier than a lot of other voters. I live in a district where the Democratic congressional candidate once won even though he was dead. Another time the Democrat was alive, but his challenger was a convicted arsonist.

Of course, there's no such thing as an absolute shoo-in. Remember Eric Cantor! Cantor's defeat showed that the system really did work and that even the House majority leader can lose a can't-lose contest if he has an extremely irritating personality and spends the first half of Election Day out of town having breakfast with lobbyists. So there's that.

Everyone's been wondering whether California's new nonpartisan primary system will improve the caliber of candidates, including long-shot challengers. We will see. This fall, in the district that includes Santa Barbara, Lois Capps, the Democratic incumbent, is facing Chris Mit-



Inequality Is a Drag



Paul Krugman

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For more than three decades, almost everyone who matters in American politics has agreed that higher taxes on the rich and increased aid to the poor have hurt economic growth. Liberals have generally viewed this as a trade-off worth making, arguing that it's worth accepting some price in the form of lower GDP to help fellow citizens in need. Conservatives, on the other hand, have advocated trickle-down economics, insisting that the best policy is to cut taxes on the rich, slash aid to the poor and count on a rising tide to raise all boats.

But there's now growing evidence for a new view - namely, that the whole premise of this debate is wrong, that there isn't actually any trade-off between equity and inefficiency. Why? It's true that market economies need a certain amount of inequality to function. But American inequality has become so extreme that it's inflicting a lot of economic damage. And this, in turn, implies that redistribution - that is, taxing the rich and helping the poor - may well raise, not lower, the economy's growth rate.

You might be tempted to dismiss this notion as wishful thinking, a sort of liberal equivalent of the right-wing fantasy that cutting taxes on the rich actually increases revenue. In fact, however, there is solid evidence, coming from places like the International Monetary Fund, that high inequality is a drag on growth, and that redistribution can be good for the economy.

Earlier this week, the new view about inequality and growth got a boost from Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, which put out a new report supporting the view that high inequality is a drag on growth. The agency was summarizing other people's work, not doing new research of its own, and you don't need to take its judgment as gospel (remember its ludicrous downgrade of U.S. debt). What S&P's imprimatur shows, however, is just how mainstream the new view of inequality has become. There is, at this point, no reason to believe that comforting the comfortable and afflicting the afflicted is good for growth, and good reason to believe the opposite.

Specifically, if you look systematically at the international evidence on inequality, redistribution, and growth - which is what researchers at the IMF did - you find that lower levels of inequality are associated with faster, not slower, growth. Furthermore, income redistribution at the levels typical of advanced countries

(with the U.S. doing much less than average) is "robustly associated with higher and more durable growth." That is, there's no evidence that making the rich richer

enriches the nation as a whole, but there's strong evidence of benefits from making the poor less poor.

But how is that possible? Doesn't taxing the rich and helping the poor reduce the incentive to make money? Well, yes, but incentives aren't the only thing that matters for economic growth. Opportunity is also crucial. And extreme inequality deprives many people of the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Think about it. Do talented children in low-income U.S. families have the same chance to make use of their talent - to get the right education, to pursue the right career path - as those born higher up the ladder? Of course not. Moreover, this isn't just unfair, it's expensive. Extreme inequality means a waste of human resources.

And government programs that reduce inequality can make the nation as a whole richer, by reducing that waste.

Consider, for example, what we know about food stamps, perennially targeted by conservatives who claim that they reduce the incentive to work. The historical evidence does indeed suggest that making food stamps available somewhat reduces work effort, especially by single mothers. But it also suggests that Americans who had access to food stamps when they were children grew up to be healthier and more productive than those who didn't, which means that they made a bigger economic contribution. The purpose of the food stamp program was to reduce misery, but it's a good guess that the program was also good for U.S. economic

White students to no longer be majority at school

KIMBERLY HEFLING

JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press

KENNETT SQUARE, Pennsylvania (AP) —

For the first time, U.S. public schools are projected this fall to have more minority students than non-Hispanic whites, a shift largely fueled by growth in the number of Hispanic children.

The changing demographics of American education are apparent inside Jane Cornell's summer school classroom in Pennsylvania's wealthiest county, where giggling grade-schoolers mostly come from homes where Spanish is the primary language. The sign outside the classroom reads "Welcome" and "Bienvenidos" in polished handwriting.

Non-Hispanic white students are still expected to be the largest racial group in the public schools this year at 49.8 percent. But according to the National Center for Education Statistics, minority students,



This photo taken July 21, 2014 shows Kennett Consolidated School District Superintendent Barry Tomasetti meeting with young students in teacher Jane Cornell's summer school class at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center in Kennett Square, Pa.

Associated Press

guage instruction, and cultural ones, such as changing school lunch menus to reflect students' tastes.

But it also brings up some complex societal questions

to help break up a fight between Hispanic and black students at a school in Streamwood, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, after a racially-based lunchroom brawl got out of control. Issues of race and ethnicity in schools also can be more subtle.

In Pennsylvania's Kennett Consolidated School District, Superintendent Barry Tomasetti described parents who opt to send their kids to private schools in Delaware after touring diverse classrooms. Other families, he said, seek out the district's diverse schools "because they realize it's not a homogenous world out there."

The changes in the district from mostly middle-to-upper class white to about 40 percent Hispanic was in part driven by workers migrating from Mexico and other countries to work the mushroom farms.

"We like our diversity," Tomasetti said, even as he acknowledged the cost. He has had to hire English-language instructors and translators for parent-teacher conferences. He has cobbled money together to provide summer school for many young English-language learners who need extra reading and math support.

terns.

The disparities are evident even in the youngest of black, Hispanic and Native American children, who on average enter kindergarten academically behind their white and Asian peers. They are more likely to attend failing schools and face harsher school discipline.

Later, they have lower standardized test scores, on average, fewer opportunities to take advanced classes, and are less likely to graduate.

As the school age population has become more nonwhite, it's also become poorer, said Patricia Gandara, co-director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA who serves on President Barack Obama's advisory Commission on Education-



This photo taken July 21, 2014 shows teacher Jane Cornell working with young students on their storytelling skills during summer school at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center in Kennett Square, Pa.

Associated Press

when added together, will now make up the majority. About one-quarter of the minority students are Hispanic, 15 percent are black and 5 percent are Asian and Pacific Islanders. Biracial students and Native Americans make up an even smaller share of the minority student population.

The shift brings new academic realities, such as the need for more English lan-

that often fall to school systems to address, including issues of immigration, poverty, diversity and inequity. The result, at times, is racial tension.

In Louisiana in July, Jefferson Parish public school administrators reached an agreement with the federal government to end an investigation into discrimination against English-language learners. In May, police had to be called



This photo taken July 21, 2014 shows recent high school graduate Christian Cordova-Pedroza at Mary D. Lang Kindergarten Center in Kennett Square, Pa.

Associated Press

"Our expectation is all of our kids succeed," he said. The new majority-minority status of America's schools mirrors a change that is coming for the nation as a whole. The Census Bureau estimates that the country's population also will have more minorities than whites for the first time in 2043, a result of higher birth rates among Hispanics and a stagnating or declining birth rate among blacks, whites and Asians.

Even as the population becomes more diverse, schools are becoming more racially divided, reflecting U.S. housing pat-

al Excellence for Hispanics. Roughly one-quarter of Hispanics and African-Americans live below the poverty line — meaning a family of four has nearly \$24,000 in annual income — and some of the poorest Hispanic children are dealing with the instability of being in the country illegally or with a parent who is, Gandara said.

Focusing on teacher preparation and stronger curriculum is "not going to get us anywhere unless we pay attention to the really basic needs of these children, things like nutrition and health and safety. □